CITY HILIGHTS

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SUVENDU THE NEW ADHIKARI OF BENGAL

State gets first BJP Chief Minister; 5 ministers sworn in

KOLKATA

BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari was sworn in as the Chief Minister of West Bengal on Saturday, marking the formation of the first-ever BJP government in the state.

Governor R N Ravi administered the oath of office and secrecy to Adhikari during a grand ceremony at the Brigade Parade Ground. The oath ceremony was conducted on Saturday, which coincides with the birth anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore as per the Bengali calendar. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Chief Ministers from other BJP-ruled states, some important members of the Union Cabinet and several top Central BJP leaders, were present.

Suvendu has officially become the ninth Chief Minister of West Bengal, marking a major political turning point in the state's history. The swearing-in ceremony drew significant public and political attention as the new administration formally took charge.

Along with Adhikari, five MLAs --Dilip Ghosh, Agnimitra Paul, Ashok Kirtanya, Khudiram Tudu, and Nisith Pramanik -- took oath in his council of ministers. The Bengal Cabinet will be expanded later. With a limit of 44 ministers, 39 more MLAs can join the Bengal government under CM Suvendu Adhikari.

Congratulations to Shri Suvendu Adhikari Ji on taking oath as West Bengal's Chief Minister. He has made a mark as a leader who has remained deeply connected to the people and understood their aspirations from close quarters. My best wishes to him for a fruitful tenure ahead..

—Narendra Modi, PM

New Council of Ministers

CM: Suvendu Adhikari

Ministers sworn in

- Dilip Ghosh
- Agnimitra Paul
- Nisith Pramanik
- Kshudiram Tudu
- Ashok Kirtania

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The swearing-in marked the first-ever BJP government in West Bengal since Independence.
- The oath-taking took place at the historic Brigade Parade Grounds.
- PM Modi honored 98-year-old Shyama Prasad Mukherjee follower, Makan Lal Sarkar, at the ceremony.
- Suvendu became the 9th CM succeeding Mamata, who occupied the position for 15 years since 2011.
- After taking oath, Suvendu offered prayers at Bharat Sevashram Sangha and visited the residence of Syama Prasad Mookerjee.
- The new CM will hold meeting on Monday to decide cabinet.

First BJP govt in WB since Independence

It is the first time that a BJP government has come to power in Kolkata after almost 50 years of Left and TMC rule. But it hasn't been without controversy: outgoing CM Mamata Banerjee, who ruled the state for 15 years, refused to resign despite defeat, alleging rigging and other irregularities.

Mamata's close aide to foe

Adhikari played a key role in TMC's Nandigram stir, which was among the key reasons attributed for the end of the 24-year Left regime in Bengal and the beginning of the TMC govt. Differences surfaced in 2019 and he finally quit the TMC in 2021, later going on to lead the BJP's charge against the Mamata govt.

Bengal polls and Mamata's ouster

Following the election setback, Mamata alleged vote rigging and refused to resign. Her claim was backed by the INDIA bloc. The Governor finally dissolved the Assembly on Thursday, leading to her ouster from power.

Mamata calls for 'joint platform'

Mamata on Saturday urged all opposition parties in Bengal ito come together to form a "joint platform" to fight against the BJP govt . She also called upon student unions to unite against the saffron camp.

Road cleared 'Vijay Sarkar' in TN

'Thalapathy' of Tamil Nadu: Vijay to take oath at Nehru Stadium in Chennai at 3:15 pm today.

CHENNAI

Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) chief Vijay met Tamil Nadu Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar at the Lok Bhavan on Saturday, marking their fourth meeting since the election results were announced on May 4. This latest visit comes after his party, TVK, secured majority support to form a government in the state.

The actor-politician will take the oath as the Chief Minister on May 10 at Nehru Stadium in Chennai at 3:15 pm.

VCK-IUML extend supports

This comes after the Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK) and Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) extended unconditional support to TVK earlier in the day. In an official confirmation letter to TVK General Secretary Aadhav Arjuna, VCK president Thol Thirumavalavan extended his support for the party to form a government in the state. Shortly after that, IUML also extended its support to TVK. Both VCK and IUML have two MLAs each, taking the alliance strength to 120 MLAs in the 234-member TN Assembly. TVK had secured 108 seats.

AMMK chief files plaint against TVK over 'forged' support letter

Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazagam (AMMK) has approached the Guindy police alleging that the Tamilaga Vettri Ka TVK used a "forged" support letter while staking claim to form the government, police officials said on Saturday.According to the police, a petition submitted by AMMK general secretary T T V Dhinakaran has been received. However, officials clarified that no FIR had been registered.

DKS rejects claims of TN Cong MLAs being shifted to B'luru

BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Saturday dismissed reports that Congress MLAs from Tamil Nadu had been shifted to a resort in Karnataka amid post-election political developments there, saying he was unaware of any such move.

Political activity in Tamil Nadu has intensified following the Assembly election results, with parties engaged in consultations over government formation and support arrangements. Amid speculation about legislators being moved to resorts in other states and ongoing political negotiations, internal party discussions and interactions between senior leaders have continued. However, no official confirmation has been made regarding any such relocation of MLAs.

Shah hails BSY as leader who created a new path

CHITRADURGA

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said the five decades of public life and political struggle of former Karnataka Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa serve as an inspiration for the younger generation.

Speaking at the 'BSY Abhimanotsava' held to honour Yediyurappa on Saturday, Shah lauded his journey from a humble background to becoming one of Karnataka's most influential political leaders.

During the event, Shah released two books titled 'Kendavare-Kamala Aralida Kathe' and 'Sadana Shikari-Yediyurappanavara Gudugina Nudigalu'.

There are leaders who simply walk on existing roads and leaders who create new paths for others to follow, he said and described Yediyurappa as a leader who has shown a new direction.

"He came from an ordinary family. His willpower, the values of the Sangh and his patriotism guided him throughout his life," Shah said.

Referring to political developments in West Bengal, Shah said the BJP Chief Minister took oath there on the same day that Karnataka was celebrating Yediyurappa's 50 years in public life.

He described it as the beginning of a new chapter in the land associated with Swami Vivekananda and Syama Prasad Mookerjee.

Indian sailor killed, 4 hurt after dhow catches fire near Hormuz

NEW DELHI

An Indian sailor died, and four others were injured after a 'dhow' (a wooden boat) caught fire and sank near the Strait of Hormuz, government sources said.

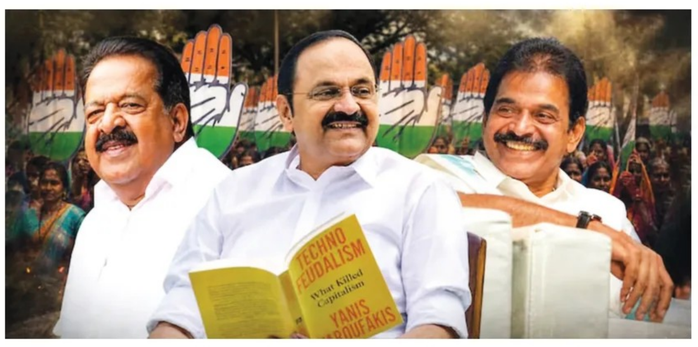
The boat was carrying 18 Indian crew members - who were rescued by a vessel that was passing by. The exact cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained. According to sources, the injured sailors are receiving medical treatment in Dubai.

The Indian Consulate in Dubai, in a post on X, said their officials have met the rescued Indian sailors. "We remain in touch with the dhow owner and rendering all possible assistance," it said.

The incident came amid increasing hostilities between Iran and the US in the Strait of Hormuz.

Battle for CM post goes on

NEW DELHI



Amid intense lobbying for the chief minister post of Keralam, the Congress on Saturday could not annouce its choice for CM even after a nearly three-hour meeting top leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi had with the contenders. Later, the party made it clear that a "final decision" will be taken in "due course".

The delay in announcement meant that the contenders -- KC Venugopal, VD Satheesan and Ramesh Chennithala -- were unwilling to dilute their claims for the top post in the state, where their supporters had held processions and erected banners, even as the leadership listened to the competing claims.

Congress' Kerala in-charge Deepa Dasmunsi said the decision will be announced in "due course…(which) is May 23 (the day Assembly will be dissolved)" after it is finalised by party chief Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi.

The party high command is in a bind as Venugopal has the support of a majority of MLAs while there was an outpouring of support for Satheesan from party workers and the public along with allies like Muslim League. Chennithala is the senior-most and the most experienced among the contenders.

The run up to the meeting saw intense lobbying by all the three leaders. There were reports that the Muslim League conveyed to the Congress leadership that they prefer Satheesan as their preference while the latter had Venugopal's name in mind.

KEY CONTENDERS

KC VENUGOPAL: AICC general secretary with strong organizational backing.

VD SATHEESAN: Outgoing opposition leader, seen by some as the face of the poll campaign.

RAMESH CHENNITHALA: A seasoned veteran with strong, established support within the party.

India gets new CDS, CNS

NEW DELHI: Indian forces saw two new appointments on Saturday, Lieutenant General N S Raja Subramani (Retd) as the Chief of Defence Staff and Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan appointed as Navy Chief.

Who is CDS NS Raja Subramani?

Lt Gen Raja Subramani is a highly decorated officer with over four decades of distinguished service.

He was commissioned into the 8th Battalion of the Garhwal Rifles on December 14, 1985. He has been awarded the Param Vishisht Seva Medal, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal, Sena Medal and Vishisht Seva Medal.

He earlier served as Vice Chief of the Army Staff. The officer holds a Master of Arts Degree from King's College London and an M Phil in Defence Studies from Madras University. He is a Graduate of the National Defence Academy and Indian Military Academy. He is currently serving as a military adviser at the National Security Council Secretariat.

Who is CNS K Swaminathan?

Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan was commissioned into the Indian Navy on July 01, 1987 and is a specialist in Communication and Electronic Warfare. He is a recipient of Param Vishisht Seva Medal, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal and Vishisht Seva Medal.

The highly-qualified officer holds a BSc degree from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi; MSc in Telecommunications from Cochin University of Science and Technology. Kochi; MA in Defence Studies from King's College, London; MPhil in Strategic Studies from Mumbai University; and PhD in International Studies from Mumbai University. He is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Khadakvasla.

'FREE TRAVEL' POLL PLEDGE

KSRTC rolls out gender ticketing

The move aims to track female ridership, signaling a potential move toward free travel for women in Kerala

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) on Saturday introduced a new system known as 'Gender Ticketing' gender ticketing.

The facility to record the gender of the passenger as male or female while issuing tickets via Electronic Ticketing Machines (ETM).

This move is linked to the newly-elected UDF government's election promise that if the party comes to power, free travel for women would be ensured through the 'Indira Guarantee' scheme.

When issuing a ticket, the conductor must record the passenger's gender in the ETM.

The updated ETMs now include separate options for women, men and children, and the printed tickets will also show the category of the passenger. The IT Department will provide urgent training to conductors to familiarise them with these technical changes.

According to a KSRTC circular, the gender ticketing system is intended to record whether a passenger is a woman, a man or a child in tickets issued on KSRTC buses from Saturday.

KSRTC MD Dr PS Pramoj Shankar said Unit Officers at each depot would supervise the implementation.

What's the motive?

The move is being seen as an attempt to estimate the number of women using KSRTC services daily before the implementation of the UDF's poll promise of free bus travel for women across Kerala.

The UDF recently won 102 out of 140 Assembly seats and is expected to form the government once the Congress finalises its chief ministerial candidate.

Officials have stated that the ETM software across the KSRTC depots was updated to support the new system from Saturday onward.

Conductors worried

Some conductors have reportedly expressed concern that entering passenger categories while issuing tickets could lead to delays, especially during peak travel hours and crowded trips. The new process requires conductors to manually select the passenger category while issuing tickets.

QUICK READ

Vehicle towing back in B'luru after 4-year gap

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

In a major step aimed at reducing traffic congestion and improving road discipline, the Karnataka government and Bengaluru Traffic Police have officially reintroduced the vehicle towing system in the city after a gap of nearly four years. Within just one month of restarting the operation, authorities have reportedly seized more than 600 vehicles parked illegally across major roads in Bengaluru. The decision to resume towing operations was taken to curb the growing problem of unauthorized parking and vehicles being left in no-parking zones, which has significantly contributed to traffic congestion in several parts of the city. Officials stated that indiscriminate roadside parking had become one of the major challenges affecting smooth movement of vehicles in Bengaluru.

Peenya flyover reopened after safety test

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Peenya Flyover, officially known as the Dr. Shivakumara Swamiji Flyover on Tumakuru Road in Bengaluru, has been reopened for full traffic movement after successfully completing a series of technical safety and stability tests conducted by the National Highways Authority of India. The reopening is expected to significantly reduce traffic congestion in one of the busiest industrial corridors of the city. According to officials, the National Highways Authority of India carried out extensive technical inspections and load-bearing tests on the flyover over the past several days.

Lorry cleaner arrested for killing driver

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A shocking murder case has been reported from Nelamangala near Bengaluru, where a lorry cleaner allegedly killed a fellow lorry driver during a late-night altercation following a drinking session. The incident, which reportedly began over the distribution of instant noodles, has created shock among local residents and transport workers in the area. According to police sources, the incident took place at a Jio petrol pump near Binnamangala in Nelamangala on Saturday night. The accused and the victim were reportedly staying in the lorry parking area attached to the petrol station when the altercation occurred.

Leadership issue will be resolved within a month: Muniyappa

The minister says the matter is under the consideration of the party leadership and clarity will emerge soon

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Responding to questions from journalists regarding speculation surrounding a cabinet reshuffle and change in leadership, Muniyappa said the matter is under the consideration of the party leadership and clarity would emerge soon.

He stated that the Congress high command would take an appropriate decision after assessing the political situation and consulting party leaders.

Everything will be decided by the high command. The issue will be resolved within a month. Whether the current leadership continues or changes, the party leadership itself will announce it, he said while addressing the media.

Muniyappa also commented on the recent meeting convened by the Chief Minister regarding the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls. Referring to concerns surrounding the revision process, he said there is confusion and debate across the country regarding voter list management and possible misuse.

He stated that discussions were held with various organizations during the meeting to examine issues related to misuse and preventive measures. According to him, arbitrary deletion of names from voter lists could create suspicion and mistrust among the public across the nation.

The minister clarified that he was not opposed to revision of electoral rolls but stressed that the process must be carried out transparently and responsibly. He alleged that in some cases, names of eligible voters were being removed while unwanted entries were being retained, raising concerns over fairness in the system.

Muniyappa urged political parties and election authorities to handle voter list revisions with responsibility and ensure that genuine voters are not deprived of their democratic rights. He said maintaining the credibility of the electoral process is essential for preserving public trust in democracy.

The minister also reacted to the political developments in Tamil Nadu regarding government formation. He stated that an opportunity should be given to parties claiming majority support to form the government and later prove their majority on the floor of the House.

He emphasized that governors should act in accordance with constitutional principles and provide adequate time for parties to demonstrate majority support. According to him, denying such an opportunity could be viewed as disrespecting both constitutional values and the mandate given by the people.

1 killed, 4 hurt in fire at Bengaluru hotel

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A major fire accident occurred at a private hotel in Bengaluru's Nagarabhavi area, leaving one person dead and four others seriously injured.

The fire reportedly spread rapidly through the building, trapping hotel staff members and causing panic in the locality.

According to police and fire department officials, the incident took place at a private hotel located on the service road near the Outer Ring Road in Nagarabhavi. The fire reportedly broke out suddenly during the late-night hours, prompting immediate emergency response operations.

Authorities suspect that the blaze may have been caused by a short circuit, although the exact reason behind the fire is still under investigation. Fire and emergency service personnel rushed to the spot soon after receiving information and launched efforts to control the flames and rescue those trapped inside the building.

Officials stated that the fire initially started in the hotel premises and later spread to the upper floor of the building where several hotel employees were residing. At the time of the incident, eight staff members were reportedly present in the building.

Dense smoke quickly filled the structure, making rescue operations difficult and causing severe breathing problems for those inside. During the incident, five workers identified as Bhima, Shivanand, Satish, and Rajkumar, along with another staff member, reportedly became unconscious after inhaling smoke.

Rescue teams managed to evacuate the affected individuals and shift them to a nearby hospital for treatment. However, 45-year-old Rajkumar succumbed to his injuries while undergoing treatment at the hospital. Police confirmed that the remaining four injured persons are currently receiving treatment at a private hospital and their condition is being monitored.

The incident created panic among residents and commuters in the surrounding area as thick smoke engulfed the hotel building during the night. Local residents gathered near the spot while emergency teams worked for several hours to completely extinguish the fire.

Police officials have registered a case and initiated an investigation into the incident. Fire department personnel are examining the electrical systems and other possible causes to determine the exact source of the fire.

The tragedy has once again raised concerns regarding fire safety measures in commercial establishments and staff accommodations operating within city limits. Authorities are expected to inspect whether the hotel had complied with mandatory fire safety regulations and emergency preparedness guidelines.

Bengaluru tops country in dowry death, harassment cases: NCRB

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

According to the latest NCRB data, Bengaluru ranked first among 19 major Indian cities in cases related to dowry deaths.

The report stated that the city registered a total of 87 dowry death cases during the previous year, surpassing other large metropolitan cities such as Delhi and Mumbai.

Delhi stood in second place with 41 reported dowry death cases, while Kanpur recorded 32 cases and Lucknow reported 27. The statistics have shocked social activists, legal experts, and citizens, especially considering Bengaluru's reputation as a progressive and educated city.

The NCRB report further highlighted that Bengaluru is also witnessing a rise in cases registered under Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code, which deals with cruelty by husbands or their relatives against married women.

Experts noted that the growing number of complaints indicates that domestic violence and dowry harassment continue to remain deeply rooted social problems despite increasing awareness and legal safeguards.

Social activists and legal professionals pointed out several factors contributing to the rise in such cases. One major reason, according to experts, is greater legal awareness among women in Bengaluru. Many women are now more willing to report harassment and seek legal protection when subjected to abuse or dowry-related pressure.

At the same time, experts warned that increasing materialism, financial greed, and social pressure associated with luxury lifestyles continue to fuel dowry demands.

Families are allegedly placing emotional and financial pressure on women even after marriage, demanding additional money, property, or valuables.

ED arrests 3 in Bitcoin scam case

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Enforcement Directorate has arrested three individuals, including prime accused Srikrishna alias Sriki, in connection with the high-profile Bitcoin scam case that has been under investigation for several years.

The arrests mark a significant development in the probe into alleged cryptocurrency theft, hacking activities, and illegal financial transactions involving digital assets worth crores of rupees.

The arrested individuals have been identified as Srikrishna alias Sriki, Robin Khandeval, and Sunish Hegde. According to Enforcement Directorate officials, the accused were taken into custody following intensified investigation into alleged hacking operations linked to cryptocurrency exchanges and government digital platforms.

Authorities stated that the case revolves around allegations that the accused hacked into Bitcoin exchange platforms and illegally diverted large quantities of cryptocurrency. The Enforcement Directorate reportedly expanded its investigation based on earlier findings and evidence gathered by the Central Crime Branch during its probe into the scam.

Investigators suspect that Sriki and his associates were involved in cyber activities targeting digital systems, including allegations related to hacking the state government's e-procurement portal and transferring funds through illegal channels. Officials believe the accused may have used sophisticated cyber techniques to gain unauthorized access to digital infrastructure and manipulate cryptocurrency transactions.

According to sources, Robin Khandeval and Sunish Hegde are suspected of assisting in converting the allegedly stolen Bitcoins into cash and helping move the money through various financial channels.

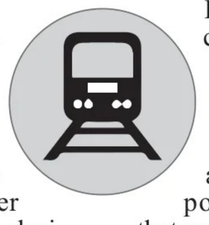
BMRCL rolls back metro service curtailment

Metro services between Hosahalli and Cubbon Park stations on Purple Line were temporarily suspended for technical work.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Metro trains on all routes in Bengaluru will now operate as usual from 5 am on Sunday, ensuring uninterrupted travel for passengers across the city.

Earlier on May 8, BMRCL had issued a notification stating that metro services between Hosahalli Station, officially known as Sri Balagangadharanatha Swamiji Station, and Cubbon Park Station on the Purple Line would be temporarily suspended on May 10 due to technical work. The announcement had caused concern among regular commuters who depend heavily on metro services during weekends.



However, the corporation has now officially withdrawn the earlier order, confirming that the planned service disruption will no longer take place. Officials clarified that the previous notification related to technical maintenance is no longer applicable and that metro operations will continue normally.

According to BMRCL authorities, the decision was taken in view of several important events and public gatherings scheduled to take place in Bengaluru on Sunday. A large number of commuters are expected to travel across different parts of the city, prompting the metro corporation to prioritize smooth and convenient transportation for the public.

To manage the anticipated rush, metro services on all lines will commence from 5 am onwards from terminal stations. Authorities stated that trains will run according to the regular Sunday schedule without any interruption.

The metro routes that will operate from early morning include the Purple Line, Green Line, and Yellow Line. Passengers using these routes can travel without worrying about temporary suspensions or changes in service frequency.

Public relations officials from BMRCL requested commuters to take note of the revised schedule and plan their journeys accordingly. The corporation emphasized that ensuring passenger convenience and reducing traffic congestion remain major priorities for the metro administration.

The announcement has been welcomed by daily commuters and residents, many of whom rely on metro services for faster and more reliable transportation across Bengaluru. With growing traffic congestion in the city, the metro network continues to play a crucial role in urban mobility and public transportation management.

Officials also assured passengers that all operational and safety measures would continue to be followed while maintaining regular services across the metro network.

Union Cabinet Approves Major Railway Expansion Projects Worth Rs 23,437 Crore

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Union Cabinet has approved three major multi-tracking railway projects aimed at strengthening the Indian Railways network and improving connectivity across several states, including Karnataka. The projects, approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, will cover 19 districts across Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka. The projects are expected to add nearly 901 kilometres to the existing railway network and are targeted for completion by 2030-31 at an estimated cost of Rs 23,437 crore. The approved projects include the Nagda–Mathura third and fourth railway lines, the Guntakal–Wadi third and fourth railway lines, and the Burhwal–Sitapur third and fourth railway lines. According to officials, the expansion projects are intended to reduce congestion on heavily used railway routes and ensure smoother movement of both passenger and freight trains across the country. Railway authorities stated that the projects are part of the government's larger strategy to modernise transport infrastructure, improve operational efficiency and enhance logistical connectivity between major industrial and commercial centres. The additional railway lines are expected to increase carrying capacity, reduce delays, and improve punctuality of trains operating on these routes. Among the approved projects, the Guntakal–Wadi line holds significant importance for South India. The existing electrified dual-track railway corridor stretches for nearly 230 kilometres and serves as a crucial link connecting southern states with Central and Western India. Major railway junctions such as Guntakal, Gooty, Don and Wadi are situated along this route, making it an important transport corridor for both passengers and freight operations.

Residents Welcome Renovation of Cooke Town Parks

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Residents of Bengaluru's Cooke Town area have expressed relief and happiness after long-pending renovation and maintenance works for Milton Street Park and High Street Park finally received official approval. The development comes after more than a year of persistent efforts by the Cooke Town Residents Association (CTRA), which had repeatedly approached authorities to secure permission for the project. The renovation is expected to improve public spaces and provide better recreational facilities for local residents, including children and senior citizens. The Cooke Town Residents Association, led by its executive committee members and founder member Albert R, had been actively pursuing the issue with the Horticulture Department of the Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC). According to association members, the parks had fallen into a poor state due to lack of maintenance and outdated infrastructure, making immediate renovation necessary. Residents stated that both parks are important community spaces frequently used for morning walks, exercise, and leisure activities. However, damaged pathways, broken seating arrangements, neglected greenery, and inadequate maintenance had caused inconvenience to visitors over the past few years. The poor condition of the parks had also raised concerns regarding safety and cleanliness.

COHAB ISSUES

Man ends life after live-in relationship 'harassment'

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A 28-year-old man from Chitradurga allegedly died by suicide in Bengaluru after reportedly facing mental harassment from a woman with whom he was living in a live-in relationship.

The incident took place in the Srigandhanagar area, and Rajagopalnagar police have launched a search operation to trace the woman, who is currently missing.

The deceased has been identified as Tippeswamy, a native of Chitradurga district. According to police sources, he had become acquainted with a woman from Davanagere through Instagram. The woman was reportedly active in creating social media reels, and both individuals were employed at the same garments factory in Bengaluru.

Investigators stated that the woman had allegedly left her husband and two children before entering into a live-in relationship with Tippeswamy. The couple had reportedly been staying together for the past two months in a rented house located in Srigandhanagar.

Police said the pair had allegedly informed the house owner that they were married in order to secure the rental accommodation. Neighbors and local residents reportedly believed they were living as husband and wife.

According to the complaint filed by Tippeswamy's family members, the woman had been mentally harassing him in recent weeks. Family members alleged that she frequently told him that he was incapable of maintaining her financially and asked him to leave her alone. Relatives claim the repeated emotional distress deeply affected Tippeswamy and pushed him into depression.

Police believe Tippeswamy died by suicide when nobody else was present in the house. His body was later discovered inside the rented residence, creating shock among neighbors and local residents in the area.

Following the incident, the woman reportedly went missing, and Rajagopalnagar police have intensified efforts to locate and question her as part of the investigation. Authorities are examining mobile phone records, social media communication, and statements from acquaintances to understand the circumstances leading to the incident.

The deceased man's family has lodged a formal complaint at the Rajagopalnagar Police Station, alleging that mental harassment by the woman directly led to Tippeswamy's death. Based on the complaint, police have initiated further legal procedures and are continuing their investigation.

The incident has once again highlighted growing concerns surrounding emotional stress, relationship disputes, and mental health issues among young people in urban areas.

QUICK READ

Double biometric rule set for ration beneficiaries

Kalaburagi

The Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs in Kalaburagi has announced that ration grains for both May and June will be distributed together in May, following government instructions. Deputy Director's office stated that ration card holders must complete biometric authentication twice to receive the full two-month quota. Under the scheme, Antyodaya cardholders will receive 35 kg rice per month, totaling 70 kg, while BPL cardholders will get 10 kg per member. Officials warned that single biometric authentication will make beneficiaries ineligible for June supplies. Ration shops will operate from 6 am to 10 pm daily to ensure smooth distribution. Under the One Nation One Ration Card scheme, beneficiaries can collect ration from any fair price shop in India. Authorities also cautioned against illegal sale of grains, with strict penalties and suspension of cards for violations.

Stray dog attack in bidar claims infant's life

Bidar

A three-month-old baby girl died after being attacked by a stray dog inside her home in Dubalgundi village of Humnabad taluk in Bidar district. The infant, identified as Shivani, daughter of Sudha and Siddappa, was reportedly sleeping inside the house when the incident occurred while her parents were engaged in household work. The stray dog allegedly entered the house and attacked the child, causing severe injuries. Family members immediately rushed the baby to a nearby hospital and later shifted her to BRIMS Hospital for advanced treatment. Despite medical efforts, she succumbed to her injuries. The tragic incident has left the family devastated and sparked concern among villagers over the rising stray dog menace, prompting demands for urgent action from authorities to ensure public safety.

BIMS Hospital death triggers custody negligence claims

Raichur

A life convict from Raichur district died while undergoing treatment at BIMS Hospital in Ballari, triggering allegations of negligence by jail authorities and medical staff. The deceased, identified as Hanumanthu (25) of Sankanalu village in Maski taluk, had been serving a life sentence and was shifted from Raichur District Prison to Ballari jail in January 2026. According to family members, he developed severe stomach pain on April 29 and was admitted to BIMS Hospital from jail for treatment. Relatives alleged that they were not informed about his illness or hospitalization for several days. Hanumanthu died on May 6, but the family claimed they were informed only late that night through a police call. His sister Mariyamma accused jail authorities of negligence and demanded a thorough investigation, stating he was healthy before the incident and questioning the circumstances of his sudden death.

Karnataka cabinet clears ₹61 crore industrial project

The Karnataka Cabinet approved a ₹61.26 crore industrial estate at Nandur K village to boost regional growth.

KALABURAGI

The State Cabinet has approved the establishment of a new industrial estate in Nandur K village in Karnataka at an estimated cost of ₹61.26 crore, aiming to strengthen regional industrial development and generate local employment opportunities.

District in-charge Minister and Minister for Rural Development, IT and Biotechnology Priyank Kharge announced that the project will be jointly funded by the Karnataka State Small Industries Development Corporation and the Kalyana Karnataka Regional Development Board on a 50:50 basis

He said that the Kalyana Karnataka region has historically lagged behind in industrial growth, and the new industrial estate is expected to accelerate economic activity in the area. The initiative is part of broader efforts to promote balanced regional development and reduce unemployment by attracting small and medium-scale industries.

Officials stated that the project will provide essential infrastructure for industrial units, including land allocation, road connectivity, and utility support, making it easier for entrepreneurs to set up operations in the region. The government expects the estate to encourage both local and external investment in manufacturing and allied sectors.

Priyank Kharge expressed confidence that the project will create significant employment opportunities, especially for educated youth in the district, and contribute to the overall economic empowerment of Kalaburagi and surrounding areas.

The industrial estate is also expected to support the growth of small-scale industries, strengthen supply chains, and improve income levels in the region. Authorities believe that with proper implementation, the project will play a key role in transforming the industrial landscape of northern Karnataka over the coming years.

Yadgir Lokayukta trap exposes police bribery case

YADGIR

Lokayukta trapped Gurmitkal police inspector Veeranna Doddamani in Yadgir district while allegedly accepting ₹1 lakh bribe in corruption investigation case.

In a major anti-corruption operation in Yadgir district, the Karnataka Lokayukta trapped a police inspector from Gurmitkal Police Station while allegedly accepting a ₹1 lakh bribe.

The accused officer, identified as Inspector Veeranna Doddamani, was allegedly handling a criminal investigation case and is said to have demanded money from complainants in exchange for not arresting them and dropping the case. The complaint was filed by a person named Anand, following which Lokayukta officials initiated a planned trap operation.

The team, led by Lokayukta DySP Zakir Inamdar, caught the inspector red-handed while accepting the bribe amount. Officials immediately took the officer into custody and registered a case under the Prevention of Corruption Act. Further investigation is currently underway to examine possible links and additional wrongdoing.

The incident adds to a series of recent corruption cases involving police personnel in Karnataka. In one earlier case in Bagalkote district, Lokayukta officials had raided Kerur Police Station and arrested a sub-inspector and a constable for allegedly accepting bribes related to gambling cases.

In another separate development from Ballari district, a police armed reserve constable serving as a gunman for the Superintendent of Police was arrested in an extortion case involving alleged illegal rice transporters. His associate was also arrested, while another accused remains absconding.

Officials said these incidents highlight growing concerns over corruption within sections of the police force and reinforce the need for strict vigilance and accountability mechanisms. Lokayukta authorities have stated that anti-corruption drives will continue across districts to curb bribery and misconduct in public service.

In Kalaburagi district, Minister Priyank Kharge criticised the Governor and Election Commission over alleged constitutional interference.

Kharge criticises Governor and Election Commission

KALABURAGI

In Karnataka's Kalaburagi district, IT-BT Minister Priyank Kharge strongly criticised the Governor and the Election Commission, alleging interference by the Central Government in constitutional institutions.

He said there was no confusion regarding government formation and stressed that majority support must be tested on the floor of the Assembly. He alleged that despite the single largest party claiming majority and requesting permission to convene the House, the Governor was not allowing it.

Priyank Kharge further accused the Governor of acting under central government influence, stating that decisions appeared to be guided by directions from New Delhi rather than constitutional neutrality.

In a sharp political attack, he also questioned the neutrality of the Election Commission, alleging bias in favour of the BJP. He claimed that the ruling party's electoral success in some states reflected irregularities and raised concerns over the institution's independence.

He went on to make strong remarks against the Chief Election Commissioner, alleging that the office functioned under government influence and lacked autonomy. According to him, the Election Commission should act independently and fairly without political pressure.

The comments are expected to trigger a political controversy, with opposition parties likely to respond strongly to the allegations made against constitutional authorities.

The statements add to ongoing political tensions in the state, where debates over institutional independence and government formation processes continue to draw attention. Officials from the concerned institutions have not yet responded to the remarks.

BRIMS mismanagement triggers agitation warning

BIDAR

Allegations of serious administrative lapses at Bidar Institute of Medical Sciences (BRIMS) have sparked fresh controversy in Bidar, with activists warning of an agitation if immediate corrective measures are not taken.

Bahujan Seva Samiti State Coordinator Swamidas Kempenor said that government-funded medical equipment worth crores of rupees is not being properly utilised at the hospital. He urged the district in-charge minister and the Deputy Commissioner to intervene and restore proper functioning of essential healthcare services.

He alleged that despite the Cath Lab being inaugurated nearly a year ago, patients are yet to benefit from its services. He also claimed that the dialysis unit at BRIMS is not functioning effectively, forcing patients to seek treatment elsewhere.

Kempenor further raised concerns about theft incidents inside the hospital premises, including missing air conditioners and copper wiring worth several lakhs of rupees, which he said reflect poor security and administrative negligence.

He stated that BRIMS was established to provide advanced medical care locally so that patients from Bidar and surrounding areas would not have to travel to cities like Hyderabad or Solapur. However, he alleged that promised services remain largely non-functional.

He demanded the immediate removal of the current hospital director and called for the appointment of an experienced administrator to improve management. He also urged authorities to ensure round-the-clock availability of doctors and to make the Cath Lab operational without further delay.

In addition, he called for a thorough investigation into the theft cases and strict action against those responsible. He also stressed the need to ensure all CCTV cameras in the hospital are functioning properly to improve security and accountability.

The warning has added pressure on the administration, with local organisations supporting demands for better healthcare services and improved governance at BRIMS.

Freedom fighters seek higher monthly honorarium

BIDAR

A demand has been raised in Bidar urging the Karnataka government to increase the monthly honorarium for freedom fighters from ₹10,000 to ₹20,000, citing rising living costs and lack of revision over the past several years.

Senior citizen and State Senior Citizens Award recipient Veerabhadrappa Uppin submitted a memorandum to the Chief Minister through the Deputy Commissioner, stating that the honorarium has remained unchanged since 2018. He pointed out that no revision has been made in the past eight years despite significant changes in economic conditions.

He compared the situation with salary revisions for government employees under the 6th and 7th Pay Commission and noted that salaries and allowances of ministers, MPs, MLAs, and other elected representatives have been periodically revised in line with inflation and price index changes.

Uppin said that the rising cost of essential commodities, along with increasing expenditure on healthcare and medicines, has made it difficult for many freedom fighters to manage daily expenses. He urged the government to consider the present economic situation and provide timely financial relief by enhancing the monthly honorarium.

Low-hanging power lines spark safety alarm in Vijayapura

VIJAYAPURA

Serious public safety concerns have been raised in Vijayapura over dangerously low-hanging high-tension electricity lines near Ambedkar Circle, one of the city's busiest public gathering points. Residents have warned that negligence by the electricity authorities could lead to a major tragedy unless immediate corrective action is taken.

The high-tension line passing close to the District Collector's residence in the area is seen as a major hazard, especially because Ambedkar Circle is a central location for protests, rallies, processions, and public events. Citizens say the risk increases significantly during large gatherings, when banners, flags, hoardings, and vehicles may come into contact with the low-lying live wires.

Locals have also recalled a recent fatal incident during Ganapati immersion celebrations near Gandhi Circle, where a young man named Shubham died after accidentally coming into contact with a high-tension wire. He was reportedly trying to create space for a tractor carrying an idol when the electrocution occurred. Residents say that despite this tragedy, preventive measures have not been adequately implemented in other vulnerable locations.

Another major concern is the presence of overgrown tree branches near the electric lines. Residents claim that during windy conditions, branches often touch the wires, increasing the risk of short circuits, sparks, or snapped cables. With the monsoon season approaching, fears have intensified as forecasts predict strong winds of 40 to 50 kmph in the region.

Citizens have urged the electricity department and district administration to urgently inspect the area and take corrective steps, including raising wire height, trimming trees, and installing warning systems. They have also called for safety audits in all major public gathering zones.

371J reservation boosts MBBS seats in Kalyana Karnataka

KALABURAGI

- 371J boosts regional medical admissions
- MBBS seats rise to 1,150
- Poor students benefit from reservation
- Medical colleges increased intake capacity
- Kalyana Karnataka records educational progress

The implementation of Article 371J has brought a major transformation in medical education opportunities across Kalyana Karnataka, with MBBS seats for students from the region rising from 530 in the initial years to a record 1,150 seats this academic year.

The constitutional provision, introduced 12 years ago to support the educational and employment needs of the backward Hyderabad-Karnataka region, has significantly improved access to professional courses for students from economically weaker sections. According to official data, nearly 9,893 students from the region have secured medical admissions since the implementation of 371J.

Before the special reservation came into effect, students from the region reportedly received barely 60 to 70 MBBS seats annually. However, the situation changed dramatically after reservation benefits were extended to local students in medical institutions across the region.

Officials said the increase in seat availability is mainly due to the expansion of medical colleges and intake capacities in districts such as Kalaburagi, Bidar, Raichur, Yadgir, Koppal and Ballari. Medical colleges including Gulbarga Institute of Medical Sciences and Mahadevappa Rampure Medical College have increased seat capacities over the years.

Under the 371J provisions, nearly 70 percent of seats in institutions located within the region are reserved for local students, enabling many poor and middle-class families to fulfil their dream of becoming doctors.

Medical Education Minister Sharanprakash Patil said the reservation system has opened doors for talented rural students who earlier could not afford expensive medical education.

Meanwhile, Priyank Kharge stated that the state government remains committed to strictly implementing 371J provisions and expanding educational opportunities in the region, calling the rise in medical admissions a symbol of Kalyana Karnataka's growing educational progress.

KURUGODU WATERLOGGING ISSUE

Heavy rain and winds damage power lines in Kalaburagi region

KALABURAGI

Heavy rain accompanied by strong winds caused widespread disruption across parts of Karnataka, particularly in the districts of Ballari and Kalaburagi district, offering temporary relief from summer heat but damaging electricity infrastructure and residential structures.

In the Kurugodu region of Ballari district, thunderstorms began early Friday morning around 4 am and continued for several hours. While the rainfall brought down soaring temperatures, it also led to waterlogging in low-lying areas. Overflowing drains caused sewage water to enter roads, disrupting daily movement in several localities.

Strong winds caused significant damage near the Sub-Registrar's Office, where tin sheets covering roadside shops were blown away. In Indiranagar locality, an unfortunate incident was reported where two lambs were electrocuted after a snapped electric wire fell to the ground during the storm.

Local reports confirmed that more than 25 electricity poles collapsed in villages including Badanahatti, Genikehalu, Somalapura, and Vaddatti due to intense winds. Despite the extensive damage, no human casualties were reported in the affected areas. Officials recorded around 2.3 cm of rainfall during the storm.

In Kalaburagi district, particularly in Chincholi taluk, strong winds and heavy rain were reported in the evening hours. In Ramatirth village, several electricity poles collapsed after about 20 minutes of intense rainfall and gusty winds. The storm also damaged the roofs of at least three houses, causing panic among residents.

Rainfall was also reported from nearby villages including Salagapura, Basantapura, Gadilingadalli, Ainapura, and Benakepalli, leading to minor disruptions in daily life.

Residents in the affected regions have urged the electricity department and local administration to urgently restore damaged power lines and strengthen infrastructure ahead of the upcoming monsoon season to prevent further disruptions and safety hazards.

QUICK READ

Young dancer Nimisha Shenai set for Arangetram

MANGALURU

Bharatanatyam dancer Nimisha Shenai will present her arangetram on May 10 at 5.15 pm at Palemar Convention Centre in Maryhill-Konchady, Mangaluru. She is a disciple of Guru Vidushi Vidyashree Radhakrishna from Gana Nritya Academy. Well-known artistes Sudheer Kodavoor, director of Udupi Nritya Niketan Kodavoor, and actress and Bharatanatyam dancer Manasi Sudheer will attend the programme as chief guests. Guru Vidyashree Radhakrishna will handle nattuvangam and choreography for the performance. Vocal support will be provided by Srikanth Gopalakrishnan from Chennai, while Vinay Nagarajan from Bengaluru will perform on mridangam.

Facebook posts trigger complaint by theatre artiste

PUTTUR

Theatre artiste Sundar Rai Mandara filed a complaint with Puttur Rural Police, alleging that defamatory and threatening posts were shared against him and his family on Facebook and other social media platforms. According to the complaint, several objectionable posts targeted the artiste and his family members, causing mental stress and fear. Sundar Rai claimed that the messages were deliberately circulated to damage his public image and create fear among his relatives. In his complaint, he named Mahesh Shetty Timarodi, Satish Kumar Rai Padumale, Kudla Rampage, Prasanna Ravi and a few others as being involved in sharing the posts online.

Police issue safety rules for jewellery shops

PAVAGADA

Police officials held a meeting with jewellery shop owners under the jurisdiction of the Pavagada police station and advised them to strengthen security measures in their stores. Circle Inspector Suresh addressed the gathering and explained several precautions that shop owners must follow for the safety of their businesses. He instructed every jewellery shop to install CCTV cameras and regularly check whether they are functioning properly. He also stressed the need to maintain proper records during gold buying, selling and mortgage transactions. Shop owners were asked to verify customers' identity documents before carrying out any transaction and record complete details carefully.

Political greed costs Bengaluru the IPL final

Political demands for excessive free VIP tickets forced the BCCI to move the 2026 IPL final to Ahmedabad.

HUNSURU

In a move that has shocked local cricket fans, the BCCI has officially shifted the IPL 2026 final from Bengaluru to Ahmedabad. The decision follows a heated controversy involving Karnataka's elected representatives and their demands for a massive quota of free tickets. Satyappa, president of the Sathya MAS Foundation, has labeled the situation a "national shame," accusing politicians of prioritizing "VIP culture" over the public interest. The trouble began when legislators, including 224 MLAs and 70 MLCs, allegedly lobbied for high-value complimentary passes. While BCCI protocols limit free ticket distribution to just 15% of stadium capacity, reports suggest state representatives demanded far more, with some requesting up to five VIP tickets each. Satyappa noted that with VIP tickets valued at nearly 25,000 each, the total demand represented a staggering waste of over 4 crore. BCCI Secretary Devajit Saikia confirmed the venue change, stating that excess demand for complimentary tickets beyond mandated quotas forced the board's hand. Because defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru were set to host the final, the shift to Narendra Modi Stadium is a major blow to the city's prestige and economy. Critics argue that the state government should have used its influence to honor achievers and talented students instead of fighting for free seats. "If these representatives knew even a little about the struggles of farmers and the public, they would discuss those issues in the assembly rather than lobbying for cricket tickets," Satyappa said. The fallout has left the government facing sharp criticism for letting political greed derail a major sporting celebration.

Basavanna statue unveiled to promote social equality

Retired Justice Nagamohan Das unveiled a Basavanna statue, urging citizens to embrace constitutional values and end caste-based politics.

RAMANAGARA

Retired Justice Nagamohan Das called for a society built on justice and coexistence during the unveiling of a new Basavanna statue at the City Council premises. Speaking at the Basava Jayanti event, the Justice emphasized that true progress is only possible if citizens move beyond "caste politics" and embrace the shared principles of Lord Basavanna and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.Justice Das noted that while many politicians use the images of great thinkers for gain, these philosophers actually belong to all of humanity. He reminded the audience that in the 12th century, Basavanna and the Vachanakaras fought against hereditary professions and untouchability. These same values of equality are now the backbone of the Indian Constitution."The Vachanakaras give us a moral path, while the Constitution provides a legal one," Justice Das stated. He expressed regret that many people either haven't read these important texts or fail to practice their teachings in daily life. He described the historic Anubhav Mantapa as an early center of democracy that mirrors our modern parliamentary system.Municipal President K. Seshadri Sashi highlighted that the council had officially budgeted for this celebration to honor the "pioneer of social justice." He reiterated the city's commitment to helping the poor and backward classes. The event was graced by several prominent spiritual leaders and local officials. The ceremony concluded with a call to realize a welfare state by blending secularism with the timeless wisdom of the Sharanaras to ensure a prosperous future for all.

LOCAL RESIDENTS FEAR FLOODING AS ROADS CRUMBLE

MANIPAL

Families living near the Aatradi-Hirebettu road are bracing for a difficult monsoon as their main transit route falls into total disrepair. What used to be a smooth path is now a source of daily stress for commuters and neighbors.

The primary concern is the drainage system. Currently, the gutters are choked with plastic bottles, household trash, and thick silt. Residents admit that illegal dumping has turned these drains into stagnant pools that smell terrible. With heavy rains expected soon, there is a very real fear that water will have nowhere to go but inside people's homes and across the driving

lanes.

The mess isn't just underfoot. Overgrown bushes and wild plants are swallowing the roadsides toward Tattur and Kabyadi. Locals report a heartbreaking sight, stray animals dragging discarded waste across the pavement. This creates a massive health risk for children walking to school and elderly residents living nearby.

Even though this road is a vital link to the Mangaluru International Airport, it is covered in dangerous potholes. Near Hirebettu Junction, loose gravel makes the surface feel like marbles under motorcycle tires, causing frequent skids. Public spaces aren't faring any better; the Tattur bus shelter is currently hidden behind a wall of weeds, making it unusable for passengers seeking shade.

Tired of waiting, the community is now making a final plea to local officials. They want the drains cleared and the asphalt patched immediately, before the first rains turn these small problems into a disaster.

Citizens must fight money power in elections

KALABURAGI

In a powerful call to protect democracy, the Bharatiya Electoral Reforms Struggle Committee hosted a national symposium today at KCT Education College. The event, titled "Control Money Power in Elections, Save Democracy," aimed to inspire future educators to lead the fight against political corruption and the dangerous influence of wealth in voting.Principal Dr. Shantappa Soma inaugurated the session with an inspiring speech. He challenged the common belief that only politicians are responsible for nation-building. "

Ancient Basrur lakes crumble under heavy neglect

BASRUR

The historic town of Basrur, once a shimmering jewel of the Vijayanagara Empire, is watching its legacy dry up. Known historically as "Vasupura," this former port town once traded with Rome and China. However, the famous "seven lakes" that define its heritage are fighting a losing battle against time and total administrative apathy. Basrur's identity is tied to seven specific water bodies, including Devara Kere and Halavara Kere. Built centuries ago with sturdy red stone slabs and elegant steps, these lakes were designed for both irrigation and daily life. Fast forward to the present, and the scene is grim. Most of these structures are in ruins. Only three lakes still hold any water, but even those are choked by thick green algae and stagnant filth, making them completely unusable for the local residents.Community members recall past attempts to remove silt, but without a long-term plan, the weeds simply returned. The sight of these crumbling monuments is a painful reminder of a glorious past being forgotten. However, a small glimmer of hope has finally emerged for the thirsty town.

Struggling Karkala residents demand better parking solutions

KARKALA

Karkala is famous for its rich history and beautiful landmarks, but for the people living there, the daily reality is a nightmare of gridlock. As the town grows, its infrastructure remains stuck in the past, leaving drivers and walkers frustrated by constant congestion and a total lack of parking.

For over ten years, officials have debated how to fix the parking crisis, yet little has changed. Without official lots, cars and bikes line both sides of the narrow streets. This creates a bottleneck at SBI Junction and Venkatramana Temple Road, where traffic often grinds to a complete halt. The situation has become so dire that even emergency ambulances find themselves trapped in long queues during the busiest hours of the day.

The chaos on the road has spilled onto the sidewalks. Pedestrians are being forced to walk into the flow of traffic because footpaths are packed with parked vehicles. Adding to the town's worries, residents have reported a rise in public disturbances. Groups of intoxicated individuals often loiter near the bus stands, making students and women feel unsafe while they wait for transportation.

With the major Bahubali Mahamastakabhisheka festival approaching, the town expects a massive wave of tourists. Local families are now calling for an urgent meeting with leaders to find a real fix. They aren't asking for miracles, just clear roads, safe walking paths, and a dedicated place to park their cars so that Karkala can finally breathe again.

Protesters accuse officials of hiding the Lakshmana Teertha River's severe pollution from inspectors to win unmerited awards while sewage continues contaminating drinking water downstream.

Hunsur's polluted river sparks cleanliness report row

HUNSUR

A major controversy has erupted as the State Cleanliness Monitoring Team begins its inspection of Hunsur. Local activists, led by Satyappa of the Sathya MAS Foundation, allege that authorities are misleading the visiting team to secure an undeserved cleanliness award.

While the monitoring team is currently camping in the city to prepare its report, critics claim they are being "lured" by local officials to visit only pre-cleaned pockets. The protesters warn that ignoring the city's massive drainage issues will lead to a false report being submitted to the government.

The central point of contention is the historic Lakshmana Teertha River. Originating in South Kodagu and flowing 180 kilometers before joining the Kaveri, this river is considered the lifeblood of the region. Legend says the river was created by Lakshmana's arrow during the Ramayana. However, its spiritual significance contrasts sharply with its current state.

Recent data from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) paints a grim picture, ranking the Lakshmana Teertha as the second most polluted river in the state. Reports submitted to the National Green Tribunal (NGT) highlight a high Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) level of 5.6, a clear indicator of severe organic pollution.

Satyappa pointed out that sewage from over 100,000 residents flows directly into the river. "This polluted water eventually reaches Mysore, Mandya, and even Bengaluru," he stated. "Over two crore people, including state MLAs and ministers, consume this water downstream, often falling ill without knowing its rotten condition."

Despite Hunsur winning "Best Municipal Council" awards multiple times in the past, the river remains a "royal canal" for waste. Activists argue these awards are based on flawed criteria that ignore the stinking reality of the city's waterways.

The Sathya MAS Foundation has now threatened to escalate the matter. If the state team fails to document the true state of the river, residents plan to take their complaints directly to the Prime Minister and Union Tourism Minister, demanding accountability for the neglected "karmic land" of late leader D. Devaraja Urs.

Thieves swipe crucial cameras from Tiger Reserve

CHIKKAMAGALURU

In a worrying breach of forest security, unknown thieves have stolen specialized cameras meant for the ongoing tiger census. The devices were located within the Muthodi wildlife sanctuary, a key part of the Bhadra Tiger Reserve.Forest officials confirmed that the high-tech equipment was working perfectly until May 4. However, the crime was discovered the following day. During a routine patrol on May 5, Deputy Range Forest Officer Yaseen Basha and forest guard Nandish noticed the cameras were missing from their designated spots. The stolen gear is valued at approximately Rs.40,000 .The Forest Department has officially filed a complaint at the Mallanduru Police Station. While the search for the culprits is underway, the motive remains a mystery.

SWR SAFETY RESCUE DRIVE

Railways boost safety and rescue missing children

SHIVAMOGGA

The South Western Railway (SWR) has intensified its safety measures, achieving remarkable results in passenger protection and crime prevention during April 2026. Dr. Manjunath Kanamadi, Chief Public Relations Officer, announced that the Railway Protection Force (RPF) successfully rescued 67 children and recovered stolen property and contraband valued at over Rs. 100 lakh.Under the initiative "Operation Nanhe Farishtey," officers rescued 55 boys and 12 girls who had become separated from their families. These children were safely handed over to NGOs and police for reunification. Beyond humanitarian efforts, the RPF maintained a strict crackdown on illegal activities. Through "Operation Narco," officials seized nearly 99 kilograms of narcotics worth Rs. 61.42 lakh and arrested four individuals.The campaign also prioritized passenger belongings and fair ticketing. "Operation Amanat" saw the recovery of lost items worth Rs. 36.62 lakh, which were promptly returned to their rightful owners. Additionally, the force tackled illegal ticket scalping under "Operation Upalabd," arresting 17 touts and seizing tickets worth over Rs. 2.43 lakh.Minor offenses were also addressed, with 77 bottles of illegal liquor seized and handed over to the Excise Department. Dr. Kanamadi emphasized that the RPF remains committed to working round-the-clock to ensure that rail travel is not only reliable for freight but also safe, secure, and comfortable for every traveler. This intensified vigil highlights the SWR's dedication to safeguarding both national property and public welfare.

Udupi issues fire safety rules as heatwaves rise

UDUPI

As scorching temperatures grip the region, the Udupi City Municipal Council (CMC) has issued an urgent fire safety advisory to protect lives and property. With fire accidents on the rise in both shops and homes, the municipal body is demanding that citizens take immediate preventive action before a disaster strikes.In a formal press release, the CMC Commissioner warned that the current heatwave has turned many buildings into potential tinderboxes. To combat this risk, owners of commercial complexes, hospitals, factories, and residential apartments are now required to install functional fire hydrant systems. The advisory specifically targets scrap yards and warehouses storing chemicals or fuel, where even a tiny spark could trigger a catastrophic explosion.Beyond just installing equipment, the city is pushing for better education. The CMC has instructed businesses to provide basic fire-fighting training to their staff. safety.

QUICK READ

Kota c-section deaths trigger suspensions in hospital

JAIPUR

Taking serious action over deaths of mothers after cesarean deliveries at Kota's New Medical College Hospital, the Rajasthan government has suspended a doctor and two nursing staff. A UTB contract doctor has been dismissed and two other doctors received show-cause notices as inquiry begins. Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma ordered a fair investigation and strict action, while health officials review hospital care and monitor patients. Authorities said protocols, operating theatres, and post-surgery monitoring systems are being reviewed to prevent further negligence, and accountability will be fixed. Officials assured improved care for admitted mothers under supervision going forward now

Ahmedabad Zoo shields animals from heatwave

AHMEDABAD

The Kamla Nehru Zoological Garden at Kankaria, run by the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation, has stepped up cooling measures as temperatures crossed 40°C during a heatwave. More than 2,000 animals, birds, and reptiles are being protected with around 40 air coolers placed near enclosures of elephants, lions, tigers, and leopards. Shade nets, water sprinkling, and geothermal cooling systems have also been installed. Zoo staff are ensuring hydration using ORS and glucose in water, while diets include water-rich fruits. Veterinary teams are closely monitoring animal health as visitors continue to arrive in large numbers during the summer season.

Armed men abducts Woman, Infant

SHIVPURI

Police in Shivpuri said a 22-year-old woman and her three-month-old daughter were abducted from their home by armed men on Friday night. According to complaint she was in a live-in relationship and had returned to her parents due to harassment. Eight to ten men allegedly entered the house with weapons, beat the family, and used caste abuses. closely monitoring animal health as visitors continue.

Kejriwal compares Modi to Aurangzeb

The AAP leader said Modi has wrongly taken control over many parts of India and has now reached Punjab

NEW DELHI

Aam Aadmi Party leader Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday compared Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Mughal ruler Aurangzeb during a press conference in New Delhi.

He made strong remarks while responding to recent Enforcement Directorate action in Punjab.

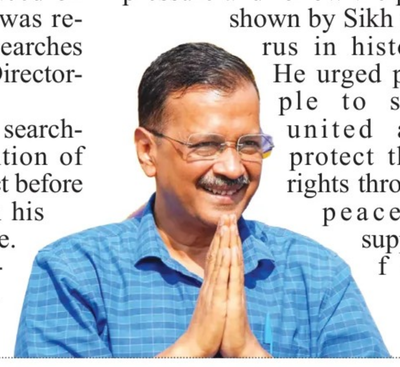
He said Modi has wrongly taken control over many parts of India and has now reached Punjab. Kejriwal said Punjab is the land of Gurus and added that history shows Aurangzeb once used force and control, similar to what he alleged is happening today in politics.

He made these comments after ED action against Punjab minister Sanjeev Arora. Kejriwal said Punjab is being targeted through repeated raids and pressure on leaders. He also said the central government is misusing agencies against opposition leaders.

He referred to the farm law protests and said farmers forced the government to withdraw the laws earlier. He added that after elections in other states, raids in Punjab have increased, creating fear among leaders and citizens.

Kejriwal also mentioned former AAP Rajya Sabha member Ashok Mittal, saying he faced a raid and later joined the Bharatiya Janata Party. He claimed this shows political pressure behind such actions. He added that similar pressure is being placed on Sanjeev Arora, who was recently arrested after searches by the Enforcement Directorate.

The ED carried out searches under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act before arresting Arora from his Chandigarh residence. Kejriwal said such actions aim to weaken opposition leaders and force political changes.



He said Punjab will resist pressure and follow the path shown by Sikh Gurus in history. He urged people to stay united and protect their rights through peaceful support for elected leaders.

Shiromani Akali Dal leader Bikram Singh Majithia said Arora was arrested in a GST-related fraud case. However, there has been no official statement from the Enforcement Directorate so far.

The issue has triggered strong political debate in Punjab and other regions. Supporters of AAP called the action unfair, while others defended the role of investigating agencies.

BJP leaders hail major Bengal shift

KOLKATA

Newly inducted West Bengal minister Agnimitra Paul on Saturday said the BJP government marks fulfilment of Syama Prasad Mookerjee's vision and claimed Bengal has been saved from turning into Western Bangladesh.

Her remarks came after Suvendu Adhikari took oath as chief minister of first BJP led government in West Bengal along with other ministers. The cabinet also included Dilip Ghosh, Nisith Pramanik, Ashok Kirtania and Khudiram Tudu among others. Speaking to reporters, Paul recalled struggles of BJP workers and alleged years of violence, harassment and cases during previous rule. She said workers faced attacks and claimed the situation had changed after the new government came to power. Paul also said Syama Prasad Mookerjee's ideals guided the party's rise in Bengal politics. She alleged Mamata Banerjee's government pursued appeasement politics and claimed cultural identity was at risk. Paul further said Bengal was protected from turning into Bangladesh like conditions due to BJP leadership. She said victims of past political violence deserve justice and peace under the new administration. The swearing in ceremony marked a major political shift in West Bengal with BJP forming government for the first time. Party leaders said the change reflects people's mandate and commitment to development and governance reforms across the state. However opposition leaders continued to criticise the new government and rejected the claims made by BJP leaders. They said allegations of violence and cultural threat were exaggerated and aimed at political mobilisation ahead of future elections. The situation in West Bengal remains politically tense as both sides exchange sharp statements following the change in power.

TMC to continue fight against BJP rule: Abhishek

KOLKATA

As Suvendu Adhikari took oath as the ninth Chief Minister of West Bengal on Saturday, Trinamool Congress leader Abhishek Banerjee said the party's fight against the BJP will continue.

He said the election was marked by alleged irregularities and claimed that nearly 30 lakh genuine voters were removed from electoral rolls. In a social media statement, Banerjee alleged partisan conduct by government agencies and raised questions about the role of the Election Commission of India.

He demanded release of CCTV footage from counting centres and verification of VVPAT slips to ensure transparency in the election process. He said democratic institutions must maintain trust and alleged that recent events in West Bengal have raised doubts among citizens. Banerjee also raised concerns over post poll violence, claiming that party workers were attacked and forced to leave their homes. He said no political worker should face fear for their beliefs in a democracy and called the situation unacceptable. He reiterated support for West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and said the fight for democracy will continue.

According to him, the party will continue to stand with citizens and party workers affected by alleged political pressure. He said the movement will remain peaceful but firm in demanding electoral reforms and accountability from institutions. Party leaders said they would continue outreach across West Bengal to mobilise support and highlight their concerns. The statement comes amid rising political tensions following the change of government in the state. Leaders from both sides continue to exchange sharp accusations over the election process and governance issues. Further developments are expected in coming days across political state.

CBI conducts searches in Reliance Group cases

MUMBAI

The Central Bureau of Investigation has carried out searches at 17 locations in Mumbai as part of ongoing cases linked to companies associated with the Anil Ambani led Reliance ADA Group. The searches were conducted at offices and residential premises connected to Reliance Telecom, Reliance Commercial Finance and Reliance Home Finance along with related directors and intermediary firms.According to the agency, the action was based on search warrants issued by a special CBI court in Mumbai. Officials said the searches led to the recovery of documents considered important for the investigation. The agency also found that several intermediary companies were reportedly operating from the same addresses, raising further questions about fund movement and financial transactions.The CBI said the investigation is continuing and more details will emerge as evidence is analysed. The cases involve alleged diversion of bank funds and financial irregularities linked to loans from public sector banks and insurance institutions.Over the past few months, the agency has registered multiple cases against Reliance Group entities following complaints from banks and the Life Insurance Corporation.

TN awaits clarity on new government

CHENNAI

The formation of the new government in Tamil Nadu remains uncertain as political discussions and alliances continue after the recent Assembly elections. AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami extended congratulations to all winning candidates and parties in the 17th Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly election while wishing success to whichever party forms the next government.

The state election was held on April 23 across all 234 constituencies in a single phase and saw a closely fought four corner contest involving the DMK alliance, AIADMK alliance, Naam Tamilar Katchi, and actor Vijay led Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam.

TVK has emerged as the single largest party with 108 seats, but it is still working to secure a majority in the House.

Congress and Left parties have already announced support for TVK, but the party is still awaiting a formal decision from Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi, which is expected to play a key role in forming the government. VCK leader Thol Thirumavalavan is scheduled to announce the party's stand later on Saturday, which could influence the final equation in the 234 member Assembly.

At the same time, political tensions have increased after AMMK general secretary T T V Dhinakaran filed a complaint alleging that a fake support letter in the name of party MLA Kamaraj was submitted in favour of TVK. This has raised questions over the validity of support claims made by some parties.

CBI extradites Haryana fugitive from Portugal

NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation has coordinated the extradition of wanted fugitive Abhay alias Abhay Rana from Portugal to India. It worked with the Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Home Affairs along with INTERPOL and Haryana Police in the operation.

The fugitive was wanted in serious criminal cases including extortion, threats, attempt to murder, and running an organised crime network. Investigators said he and his associates allegedly targeted businessmen in Haryana through social media and demanded ransom money.

Victims who refused payment were reportedly assaulted by members of the syndicate, according to police findings. Following investigation, charges were filed and a court issued proceedings against the accused in India.

After a request from Haryana Police, INTERPOL issued a Red Notice leading to his arrest in Portugal. Portuguese authorities approved extradition after legal procedures and handed him over to Indian officials. He was brought to New Delhi by a police escort team on Saturday and taken into custody.

Officials said over 160 fugitives have been brought back to India in recent years through coordinated international efforts. The agency continues to use INTERPOL channels and the BHARATPOL platform to strengthen global police cooperation. Authorities said the case highlights growing international cooperation in tracking and returning dangerous fugitives to ensure justice and improve cross-border law enforcement coordination between partner nations globally.

Akhilesh tour jibe sparks BJP clash row

NEW DELHI

BJP leader Syed Shahnawaz Hussain on Saturday attacked Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav over his visit to Kolkata and meeting with Trinamool Congress leaders after West Bengal election results.

He said Akhilesh has become a tourist who goes to places of defeat and consoles allies after losses. He also said the Congress party often leaves its partners in the INDIA alliance when they lose elections. He added that in West Bengal, Congress did not stand firmly with Mamata Banerjee and had made statements before results. He also referred to setbacks faced by DMK, saying Congress stepped away quickly. Hussain said this shows cracks within the opposition bloc. Akhilesh Yadav recently met Mamata Banerjee and Abhishek Banerjee at the Chief Minister's residence in Kolkata. After the meeting, Akhilesh alleged electoral fraud and accused authorities of manipulation in the West Bengal elections.

ED ARRESTS PUNJAB MINISTER AFTER MULTI-CITY RAIDS

CHANDIGARH

The Enforcement Directorate on Saturday arrested Punjab Industry Minister Sanjeev Arora after conducting raids at multiple locations linked to him in Chandigarh and other regions.

The action followed extensive searches carried out under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act as part of an ongoing investigation. Officials have not yet issued an official statement confirming details of the arrest.

According to reports, ED teams searched at least four premises connected to Arora, including his official residence in Chandigarh. This marks the third such raid in about a year, with earlier searches conducted in April and previous months in connection with similar allegations.Shiromani Akali Dal leader Bikram Singh Majithia claimed that the arrest is linked to alleged GST fraud and financial irregularities involving a mobile phone purchase and export network. He also alleged connections to money laundering and fund movement through foreign channels.

Meanwhile, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann accused the central government of misusing investigative agencies for political purposes. He said repeated raids on Arora's residence show a pattern of pressure tactics and defended his minister, stating that no wrongdoing has been proven.

Aam Aadmi Party leader Arvind Kejriwal also criticised the action, alleging that central agencies are being used to target opposition leaders and weaken political rivals rather than focusing on corruption cases.The ED had earlier investigated Arora in connection with alleged land conversion and financial irregularities when he was a Member of Parliament. The current case reportedly involves wider scrutiny of business transactions and associated firms.

Opposition leaders have demanded transparency in the investigation, while ruling party representatives say the law must be applied equally to all individuals involved. The case has triggered a fresh political clash in Punjab.

NAME CHANGE

I, **SHAHIN TAJ** , W/o, Syed Shafi Ulla, Resident of No 148, 2nd Street Gaffar Khan Mohalla Srinivaspur Kolar Dist,563135, have changed my name to **SHAHEEN TAJ** , vide affidavit Dated: 07.04.2026 before notary B.A. LAKSHMINARAYANA RAO, Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE

I, **SYEDOBEDULLAH** , S/o, Syed Akbar, Resident of No 148, Gaffar Khan Mohalla Srinivaspur Kolar Dist, 563135, have changed my name to **SYED UBED ULLA** , vide affidavit dated: 09.05.2026 before notary B.A. LAKSHMINARAYANA RAO, Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE

I, **MOHAMED RAFEEK KHADER** ABDUL RAHIMAN , S/o, Khader Abdu Rahiman, Resident of Noor AL kenz Kottoor Kadachira Kannur Dist 670621, have changed my name to **MOHAMED RAFEEK THARAMMAL** , vide affidavit dated: 07.05.2026 before notary B.A. LAKSHMINARAYANA RAO, Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE

I, **SYEDSHAFIULLAH** , S/o, Syed Ubed Ulla, Resident of No 148, Gaffar Khan Mohalla Srinivaspur Kolar Dist, 563135, have changed my name to **SYED SHAFI ULLA** , vide affidavit dated: 07.05.2026 before notary B.A. LAKSHMINARAYANA RAO, Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE

I, **SHERU** , S/o, Ajaaz Ahmed, Resident of No,31 1st Cross D V Block Dinnur R T Nagar Post Bengaluru Dist 560032, have changed my name to **FAIROZ PASHA** , vide affidavit dated: 09.05.2026 before notary B.A. LAKSHMINARAYANA RAO, Bengaluru.

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GUARD OF EASTERN FRONTIER

ICGS Achal bolsters maritime security

PANJI

The Indian Coast Guard commissioned the new patrol vessel ICGS Achal at Goa Shipyard Limited on Saturday, marking a boost to its fleet strength in the North West region.

The vessel was commissioned by senior defence officials in the presence of Coast Guard leadership and state representatives. Named 'Achal', meaning firm, the ship reflects the service commitment to maritime security and protection of national waters. It has been built by Goa Shipyard Limited with more than fifty percent indigenous components, supporting India's self-reliance goals. The vessel is 51-metre-long and can reach a speed of twenty seven knots with an endurance of fifteen hundred nautical miles. It is equipped with advanced engines, modern control systems and precision weapons to support multiple maritime missions including patrol and rescue operations.

The ship will be based at Vadinar in Gujarat under the operational control of the Coast Guard Region North West. It will be used for surveillance, search and rescue, anti-smuggling operations and pollution response along India's coastline. The crew consists of trained officers and personnel capable of operating the ship's advanced systems in all conditions. Officials said the commissioning of Achal strengthens coastal security and improves readiness of the Indian Coast Guard. It marks another step in India's effort to build modern indigenous defence capability under national initiatives like Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat, while also enhancing safety at sea for fishermen, trade vessels and maritime traffic across the region, officials added, highlighting the ship's role in long term maritime protection and rapid response during emergencies at sea across Indian maritime zones coastline and waters.

QUICK READ

South Korea, US discuss defence control shift

WASHINGTON

South Korean Defence Minister Ahn Gyu-back will visit the United States next week for talks with US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth. The five-day trip marks his first visit as minister. Key discussions include transfer of wartime operational control and South Korea's push for nuclear-powered submarines with US support. Seoul aims for OPCON return by 2028, while US signals later timing. Talks will also cover maritime security in the Strait of Hormuz, intelligence-sharing concerns on North Korea, and broader defence cooperation between the allies during ongoing regional tensions. Officials will meet lawmakers and navy leaders in Washington DC.

US strike on drug boat leaves two dead

WASHINGTON

The US military said its Southern Command sank a suspected drug-trafficking boat in the eastern Pacific Ocean, killing two men and leaving one survivor. Officials said the vessel was moving along known drug routes and linked to organised crime groups. No US personnel were harmed in the operation. The command claimed intelligence confirmed illegal activity, though no evidence was shared publicly. Since September, more than 50 similar strikes have been carried out, resulting in hundreds of deaths.

Japanese PM Takaichi eyes South Korea visit

Takaichi will discuss bilateral co-op with Korea on energy security amid crude oil transportation disruption due to war.

TOKYO

Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi is considering a visit to South Korea later this month for a summit with President Lee Jae Myung.

The meeting is expected to take place in Andong, the president's hometown, about 190 kilometres from Seoul. Reports say the two-day trip may happen on May 19 and will focus on economic security, energy, and critical mineral supply chains.

Takaichi recently met Lee at the APEC summit in Gyeongju after taking office last year. In January, President Lee visited Japan and held talks in Nara, marking ongoing shuttle diplomacy between the two nations.

Both countries continue regular exchanges to improve relations and strengthen cooperation on regional security issues. Meanwhile, South Korea has said it is not considering a military logistics agreement with Japan despite reports of Japanese interest. Japan has been seeking an acquisition and cross-servicing agreement with South Korea to improve defense coordination with the United States. The agreement would allow sharing of supplies and services during emergencies and strengthen deterrence against North Korea and China. However, Seoul has expressed caution, saying it does not want any arrangement that could expand Japanese Self-Defence Forces operations on the Korean Peninsula.

Officials say both governments will continue dialogue on security and economic cooperation while maintaining careful steps to avoid rising regional tensions in Northeast Asia amid ongoing geopolitical concerns in the region and beyond.

Ukraine peace remains very distant: Kremlin

MOSCOW

The Kremlin said on Saturday that peace in Ukraine is still far away and a full agreement is difficult because many issues remain complex.

Officials said the United States is trying to move quickly toward a deal, but progress remains slow. Russia and Ukraine confirmed a US brokered three day ceasefire that runs from May 9 to May 11.

The United States president Donald Trump said he hopes the ceasefire can be extended beyond the initial period.

A Kremlin spokesman said the American side is in a hurry, but a settlement remains very complex and long. The conflict has continued for more than four years and remains one of the most serious wars in Europe.

Analysts say both sides still face major disagreements and a lasting peace deal appears far from close. Officials also said monitoring the ceasefire will be difficult on the ground due to ongoing fighting and distrust between both militaries. The United States has been trying to mediate talks, but officials admit that a broader settlement will require time and political compromise. Russian officials compared the current conflict duration to past major wars, saying it has already lasted longer than expected.

Despite diplomatic efforts, both Moscow and Washington acknowledge that final peace terms remain undecided and highly sensitive.

Pak security forces kill five terrorists

PESHAWAR

Pakistan security forces killed five terrorists in separate operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, the army said on Saturday.

The actions were carried out in Tank and Dera Ismail Khan districts after intelligence reports on May 7 and 8. Four members of the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan were killed in Tank during an exchange of fire.

In Dera Ismail Khan, one more militant was killed and weapons and ammunition were recovered from them. Security officials said violence has increased in the region since the TTP ended its ceasefire in 2022.

Authorities said intelligence-based raids are continuing across the province to eliminate militant hideouts and improve security for residents. Officials added that security forces remain alert and are working with local intelligence networks to prevent further attacks,

3 Indian-origin men guilty in murder case

ABBOTSFORD

Three Indian-origin men have been found guilty of the first-degree murder of a Canadian couple in Abbotsford in 2022. A court in British Columbia said Gurkaran Singh, Abhijeet Singh and Khushveer Toor played key roles in the killing of Arnold and Joanne De Jong. Prosecutors said the crime was planned for money and rejected claims that it was a failed robbery. Arnold De Jong, 77, and Joanne De Jong, 76, were found dead in their home in 2022.

Senior monk accused of abusing minor girl

COLOMBO

Police in Sri Lanka have arrested one of the country's senior Buddhist monks over allegations of sexual abuse involving a minor girl, officials said on Saturday.

The suspect is Venerable Pallegama Hemarathana, 71, the chief priest of a well-known temple linked to the Atamasthana sacred sites in Anuradhapura. According to police, the victim is now 15 years old and the alleged abuse took place within temple premises. Authorities said the arrest followed a magistrate court warrant issued against the monk and the victim's mother, who is also accused of helping in the case. The investigation began after a complaint was filed in March, initially relating to abduction and illegal detention of a minor. However, further inquiry revealed more serious allegations of sexual abuse. Police said the monk was taken into custody from a private hospital in Colombo, about 200 kilometres from Anuradhapura, where he was receiving treatment. The victim's mother has also been arrested in connection with the case.

North Korea strengthens Russia ties

SEOUL

The two countries signed a comprehensive strategic agreement in June 2024, strengthening military and political cooperation

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un sent a message to Russian President Vladimir Putin on Russia's Victory Day, state media said.He congratulated Russia on its 81st Victory Day and said ties between the two countries are growing stronger.

According to the Korean Central News Agency, Kim praised shared progress in independence, dignity, peace, and prosperity.

He reaffirmed that North Korea will prioritize developing its partnership with Russia under their new treaty. The two countries signed a comprehensive strategic agreement in June 2024, strengthening military and political cooperation.

Reports say North Korea has also increased support for Russia during its ongoing conflict in Ukraine. Officials from both sides recently discussed long-term defence cooperation in Pyongyang, according to Russian state media TASS. They also talked about future military plans and possible training exchanges between their armed forces.

Russia praised North Korea's invitation to a memorial event and said bilateral relations are at a high level. Both nations say they will continue strengthening ties in the coming years despite global tensions and sanctions pressure.

Officials said the partnership is expected to expand further in areas such as trade, security, and infrastructure cooperation over the next few years as both countries continue closer diplomatic engagement amid ongoing geopolitical uncertainty in Northeast Asia and the wider international landscape.

BUSINESS

Airlines receive lifeline amid Mideast tensions

The quick move showed the government's strong commitment towards protecting India's aviation sector

NEW DELHI

The PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry has welcomed the Central government's decision to launch a Rs 5,000 crore emergency credit support scheme for airlines facing financial pressure due to the ongoing West Asia crisis.PHDCCI president Rajeev Juneja said the quick move showed the government's strong commitment towards protecting India's aviation sector, which plays a major role in tourism, trade and business travel.

He added that helping airlines during this difficult period would also support hotels, travel companies and jobs linked to the tourism industry.

The business body said the decision matched several suggestions made in its recent report on the impact of the West Asia conflict on India's tourism and aviation sectors. The report warned that rising operating costs and fewer available seats could reduce tourist arrivals from Europe and North America, where passengers are highly sensitive to airfare prices and longer travel times.Anil Parashar, Chair of PHDCCI's Tourism and Hospitality Committee, said airlines and tourism businesses needed strong financial support during periods of global uncertainty. He stressed that stable funding and policy assistance were necessary for maintaining confidence in the travel sector.

PHDCCI also urged the government to continue reforms such as reducing aviation fuel taxes, improving e-visa facilities and providing easier financial support for tourism MSMEs.

Dr. Ranjeet Mehta, CEO and Secretary General of PHDCCI, said the present geopolitical tensions had highlighted the close connection between aviation and tourism growth in India. He said timely financial help would allow airlines to continue operations smoothly, maintain passenger confidence and reduce disruptions across the wider travel.

India fully activates four labour codes system

NEW DELHI

The Centre has fully implemented the four labour codes after notifying all related rules in the official gazette.

This marks the completion of major labour reforms that were introduced more than five years ago to simplify India's labour laws.

The four codes include wage, industrial relations, social security and workplace safety laws designed to replace 29 older regulations. Officials said some parts were delayed earlier because rules had not been notified for full enforcement. Labour Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya recently launched a nationwide annual health check-up programme for workers aged above forty. Under this initiative, workers across the country will receive free yearly medical examinations to improve workplace health and safety.The minister said the reforms reflect the government's aim to ensure dignity, welfare and social security for employees. He also highlighted equal pay provisions for men and women along with extended maternity leave increased to twenty six weeks. Work from home options for women workers have also been included in the new legal framework.

A National Reskilling Fund has been created to support workers who lose jobs and need new training opportunities. The government said these changes will help strengthen India's labour system and improve long-term job security. Authorities added that full enforcement of the codes will also improve ease of doing business and worker protection.

Officials believe the new labour framework will modernise employment rules, reduce complexity, and ensure better coordination between employers, workers, and the government across all sectors in India going forward supporting inclusive growth and stable employment conditions nationwide.

QUICK READ

Adani Agri fresh begins HP cherry procurement

SHIMLA

Adani Agri Fresh will start buying cherries from Himachal Pradesh farmers this season and later expand into peaches and plums. The company, known for apple procurement under its Farm-Pik brand, has upgraded storage facilities at six centres to improve fruit quality and shelf life. Business Head Manish Agarwal said the move aims to give growers better market access and fair pricing. Since 2006, the company has purchased more than three lakh metric tonnes of apples from over 17,000 farmers. Adani Agri Fresh is also expanding its Digital Mandi platform to help farmers.

Gut-friendly protein demand rises in India

MUMBAI

India's protein supplements market reached about USD 912.9 million in 2025, and may grow to USD 1,578.1 million by 2034 with 6.27% CAGR during 2026–2034. The broader protein market in India is around USD 1.62 billion in 2026, with plant-based protein the fastest growing segment. Consumers are shifting toward gut-friendly and additive-free protein products focused on transparency and long-term wellness. An ITC survey shows 56% of Indian families report digestive issues, especially in cities. Abbott research found 22% adults face constipation.

GOVT PUSHES CLIMATE-RESILIENT FARMING ACROSS INDIA

NEW DELHI

The government has expanded its efforts to promote climate-resilient farming and improve soil health across India.

A fact-sheet released on Saturday highlights major progress under the National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture launched in 2014-15. Since its launch, Rs 2,119.84 crore has been released for Rainfed Area Development, covering 8.50 lakh hectares and benefiting 14.35 lakh farmers through integrated farming systems. Another major initiative Per Drop More Crop has expanded irrigation efficiency across 109 lakh hectares with Rs 26,325 crore in support provided. Soil health monitoring has also strengthened with 97.53 lakh samples collected and 92.87 lakh tested in 2025-26, helping farmers make better fertilizer decisions. The Soil Health Card programme has issued 25.79 crore cards since 2015 to guide balanced nutrient use and improve productivity nationwide. Officials said the cards have reduced excessive urea use and improved soil conditions for many farmers across states. A recent evaluation by NITI Aayog found that most farmers reported better soil health after adopting recommended practices. Around 68.5% saw significant improvement while 25.7% observed moderate gains in soil quality. Between 2014 and 2025, nearly 2,996 climate-resilient crop varieties were developed to support farmers against weather changes.

The government said these efforts aim to reduce risks from climate change and ensure stable food production for the country.

The mission was later included under broader agriculture programmes to improve coordination and efficiency in implementation. Officials added that integrated nutrient management and sustainable practices remain key priorities for future growth of farming systems in India. Authorities said continued support will strengthen resilience, productivity and farmer incomes nationwide further ahead.

India insurance schemes deliver massive social protection

NEW DELHI

India's Jan Suraksha insurance schemes have paid about Rs 25,160 crore in claims since 2015, the government said on Saturday.

The schemes were launched on May 9, 2015, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It aims to provide affordable life and accident insurance and pension support to people across India.Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said claims and enrolments have grown strongly across schemes like Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana.

Together, PMJJBY and PMSBY have settled large numbers of insurance claims for families in need.PMJJBY has settled over Rs 21,500 crore for more than 10.7 lakh families, while PMSBY has settled nearly Rs 3,660 crore for about 1.84 lakh families. Over 27 crore people are enrolled in PMJJBY and 58 crore in PMSBY, while Atal Pension Yojana has around 9 crore enrolments.The Atal Pension Yojana offers monthly pension between Rs 1,000 and Rs 5,000 after age 60 for workers in the unorganised sector.

Spinners struggle as Delhi Capitals lose big

DC suffered a crushing home defeat as their spinners failed to stop a dominant KKR attack.

NEW DELHI

The Delhi Capitals suffered a crushing eight-wicket defeat against the Kolkata Knight Riders in their last match. Following the loss at Arun Jaitley Stadium, captain Axar Patel pointed the finger at his bowling unit. He admitted the team's spinners made too many mistakes on a pitch that should have helped them.

Delhi batted first but struggled to find their rhythm, posting a modest total of 142 runs. While Pathum Nissanka scored a brave half-century, the team lost five wickets in a sudden collapse. This middle-order slump shifted the momentum entirely toward Kolkata. Axar noted that losing so many players in just a few overs left them with a score well below par.

The defense started poorly as Delhi's spinners conceded 102 runs in just nine overs. Kuldeep Yadav and Vipraj Nigam were particularly expensive, failing to take any wickets. Meanwhile, Kolkata opener Finn Allen took full advantage of the wayward bowling. Allen smashed a breathtaking 100 runs off only 47 balls, hitting ten massive sixes to seal the game early.

Kolkata chased down the target in just over 14 overs, marking their fourth straight win. A disappointed Axar Patel said the team must now look toward the future. He suggested that management might start testing players from the bench to prepare for next season. For Delhi, the long journey back to the top requires fixing these tactical errors. The captain remains hopeful that reviewing these tough moments will eventually lead to a much stronger comeback.

Finn Allen finds form with an amazing century

NEW DELHI

Kolkata Knight Riders opener Finn Allen has opened up about his recent struggles after smashing a brilliant century against the Delhi Capitals. The Kiwi batter's incredible 100 runs off 47 balls powered his team to a vital eight-wicket victory. This win keeps Kolkata's playoff hopes alive while ending Delhi's chances for the season.

Before this standout performance, Allen faced a difficult period. After a series of low scores, he was dropped from the starting lineup for three matches. Reflecting on that time away, Allen admitted he had been putting too much pressure on himself to succeed. He explained that being left out actually helped him find a fresh perspective and a much-needed mental refresh.

During the match, Kolkata faced early trouble while chasing a target of 143. After losing two quick wickets, Allen decided to change his approach. Instead of playing too aggressively, he focused on batting deeper into the innings. He told himself that if he could survive for at least 40 balls, the runs would eventually come. His strategy worked perfectly as he hit ten massive sixes to dominate the bowlers. Allen's powerful knock was supported by teammate Cam Green, who remained unbeaten as they reached the target in just 14.2 overs. For Kolkata, this marks their fourth win in a row after a rocky start to the tournament. Allen is now focused on staying responsible at the crease, proving that patience and a clear mind can lead to massive success.

After being dropped for poor form, Finn Allen returned with a stunning century, hitting ten sixes to keep Kolkata's playoff dreams alive against Delhi Capitals.

Kolkata's star all-rounder ready for any role

NEW DELHI

Kolkata Knight Riders star Cameron Green has declared he is fully fit and ready to bowl his maximum quota. After overcoming an early season back injury, the Australian all-rounder confirmed he is "100% ready" to deliver four overs whenever his team needs him. This news comes as Kolkata celebrates their fourth consecutive victory in the tournament.

In the win against Delhi, Green played a vital role by taking a wicket and scoring an unbeaten 33 runs. Initially, Green played only as a batter to manage his fitness. Now, he feels his bowling adds great depth to the squad. He explained that having multiple options, like fellow all-rounder Anukul Roy, allows the team to be flexible. Green is happy to bowl during the powerplay, the middle overs, or even at the high-pressure end of the game.

Anukul Roy shines with new found confidence

NEW DELHI

Former Indian cricketer Deep Dasgupta has praised Kolkata Knight Riders all-rounder Anukul Roy for his standout performance this season.

Speaking after Kolkata's dominant eight-wicket victory over the Delhi Capitals, Dasgupta credited Roy's success to the clear role and consistent backing provided by his team management.

Roy was the game-changer at Arun Jaitley Stadium, finishing with impressive figures of 2-31. He turned the match in Kolkata's favor by dismissing the dangerous Pathum Nissanka right after his half-century. Just two balls later, he bowled Tristan Stubbs, sparking a major collapse for Delhi. This disciplined bowling helped restrict the hosts to a low total of 142, which Kolkata chased down easily.

Dasgupta highlighted that Roy's confidence grew from a strong domestic season and the security of knowing he is a regular starter. The left-arm spinner has become a vital weapon for Kolkata, often bowling difficult overs during the powerplay.

NADA warns Star Cricketers over missed tests

NEW DELHI

The National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) has issued formal notices to Indian cricket stars Yashasvi Jaiswal and Shafali Verma. The warnings follow a "whereabouts failure," meaning the athletes were not present at their specified locations for mandatory drug testing. This development has sent ripples through the sports community as both players are key figures in the national teams.

As members of the Registered Testing Pool, athletes must provide a daily 60-minute window for no-notice testing. Reports indicate that testers arrived to find Jaiswal on December 17 and Verma on November 7 of last year, but neither player was found. When NADA reached out for explanations in February, both cricketers allegedly failed to respond, leading to the official recording of a "first missed test." Jaiswal and Verma now have seven days to explain their absence. This situation is critical because anti-doping rules are very strict regarding player locations. If an athlete records three whereabouts failures within a single year, it is treated as a major violation. Such an offense can lead to a suspension from all competitive cricket for up to four years. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and the ICC have been informed of the situation. Both young stars must now be extremely careful with their filings to avoid further complications. This incident serves as a stern reminder to all professional athletes about the importance of administrative compliance in the fight to keep sports clean and fair.

NADA Warns Young Stars Over Missed Tests

Yashasvi Jaiswal and Shafali Verma face warnings after missing mandatory drug tests. Both stars failed to update their locations, leading to "whereabouts failures." NADA recorded these as first offenses after the pair ignored follow-up emails. They must stay compliant now to avoid a potential four-year sports ban.

Delhi Capitals director slams team after defeat

NEW DELHI

Delhi Capitals' Director of Cricket, Venugopal Rao, did not hold back after his team's devastating eight-wicket loss to the Kolkata Knight Riders. Following the match at Arun Jaitley Stadium, Rao stated that the team failed in all three departments: batting, bowling, and fielding. This latest defeat leaves Delhi in eighth place, making their path to the playoffs nearly impossible.

The game started well for Delhi, with openers Pathum Nissanka and KL Rahul providing an explosive start. However, the momentum vanished quickly. Rao pointed out a crucial six-over stretch where the team failed to hit a single boundary. Despite a late effort from Ashutosh Sharma, the middle-order collapse meant Delhi could only post 142 runs.

Rao emphasized that in a high-stakes tournament like the IPL, teams cannot afford to lose focus during such critical patches.

The disappointment continued as Delhi's bowlers and fielders struggled to contain Kolkata's Finn Allen, who smashed a hundred to end the game early. With only three matches left, Rao signaled that major changes are coming. He mentioned that the management is now ready to test players from the bench to see who can perform under pressure.

Delhi must win every remaining game by a large margin to stay in the race. They now travel to Dharamsala to face the Punjab Kings on Monday. For Rao and the coaching staff, the focus has shifted to individual accountability as they desperatey try to salvage what remains of their difficult 2026 season.

Chennai target playoffs against struggling Lucknow

CHENNAI

The Chennai Super Kings are gearing up for a high-stakes battle against the Lucknow Super Giants. Currently sitting in sixth place, Chennai desperately needs a victory at their home ground, Chepauk, to keep their playoff dreams alive. Despite an inconsistent season, the five-time champions hope the familiar home conditions will give them the edge they need to break into the top four.

Chennai's strategy centers heavily on star batter Sanju Samson. Samson has become the team's "backbone," often deciding the game's fate with his powerful starts. While captain Ruturaj Gaikwad has struggled with consistency, his recent form shows signs of a comeback. Fans are also keeping a close eye on the dugout, as legend Mahendra Singh Dhoni remains sidelined with a persistent calf injury and has yet to play a match this season.

On the other side, the Lucknow Super Giants are having a nightmare tournament. Stuck at the bottom of the table, the team has struggled despite a record-breaking 27-crore price tag for captain Rishabh Pant. However, a recent stunning century by Mitchell Marsh ended a six-match losing streak, giving Lucknow a tiny glimmer of hope. Injuries to key players like Mohsin Khan have only added to their misery.

While Lucknow holds a slight lead in past head-to-head meetings, Chennai enters this match as the clear favorite. With spin-friendly conditions expected, Chennai will look to their bowlers to stifle Lucknow's middle order.

For both teams, this match is more than just a game, it is a fight for survival in a wide-open race.

Suryakumar Yadav ready for high stakes clash

RAIPUR

Star batter Suryakumar Yadav is set to join the Mumbai Indians for their critical match against Royal Challengers Bengaluru. Despite recently celebrating the birth of his daughter, the Indian T20I captain has confirmed his availability to team management. He is expected to arrive in Raipur shortly, providing a massive boost to a side fighting to keep its season alive.

While Suryakumar's return is certain, leadership remains a question mark. Regular captain Hardik Pandya missed the previous game due to back spasms and is currently under medical assessment. The team's medical staff will monitor Pandya's fitness during training this evening before deciding if he can lead the squad.

KKR build momentum for playoffs

NEW DELHI

Former cricketer Aditya Tare believes the Kolkata Knight Riders have completely transformed their season at the perfect time. After a disastrous start with five consecutive losses, Kolkata has surged back into contention with four straight victories. Their latest triumph was a dominant eight-wicket win over the Delhi Capitals, which Tare says makes them a serious threat for the top four.

The turnaround is fueled by a team finally clicking as a single unit. Tare noted that the spin attack has come back to life, while the fast bowlers are taking crucial wickets. He praised the current form of Finn Allen and Cameron Green, whose powerful batting has made difficult chases look easy. Allen recently smashed a breathtaking century in just 14.2 overs to secure their most recent win.

In contrast, Tare was highly critical of Delhi's performance. He highlighted a shocking collapse where the team managed only 10 runs off 30 balls during the middle overs. He described this stretch of play as too passive for T20 cricket, noting that the batters failed to show any intent to pressure the bowlers. Only a late cameo from Ashutosh Sharma saved Delhi from an even lower total.

Kolkata's strategy of building momentum during the "business end" is a classic championship approach. With their confidence at an all-time high, the team will now hunt for a fifth consecutive win. As the race for the playoffs tightens, Kolkata's newfound balance makes them the team no one wants to face.

RCB SEEK BATTING BOOST TO END SLUMP

RAIPUR

Royal Challengers Bengaluru are desperate to find their missing spark as they prepare to face Mumbai Indians. After a disappointing run of form, the team's powerful batting lineup is under immense pressure to deliver and snap a painful two-match losing streak that has stalled their season.

The defending champions started this year's IPL with incredible momentum. They looked unstoppable in the early stages, winning four of their opening matches with ease. At that point, securing a spot in the playoffs seemed like a certainty for the Bengaluru fans. However, the tides have turned quickly in this unpredictable tournament. Having lost three of their last five games, the team now finds itself in the middle of a worrying mid-season crisis.

The primary concern for the management is the sudden dip in scoring power. While the openers provided solid starts early on, the middle order has struggled to finish games under pressure. Against a confident Mumbai side, RCB knows that another slip-up could jeopardize their standing in the points table.

Captain and coaches are likely focusing on rebuilding the players' confidence in the nets.

For Bengaluru, the clash in Raipur is more than just another game, it is a vital opportunity to prove they still have the heart of a champion.

If their stars can regain their rhythm and find the boundary once again, they can get their campaign back on track and silence the doubters before the playoff race tightens.

Fast bowler Ashok Sharma chases speed dream

JAIPUR

Gujarat Titans pacer Ashok Sharma has become the talk of the IPL 2026 season with his incredible speed. The 23-year-old recently made headlines by bowling a 154.2 kph delivery against the Rajasthan Royals. This lightning-fast ball is currently the quickest recorded in the tournament this year, fulfilling a goal Sharma has held since his childhood.

Growing up, Sharma spent hours watching legendary fast bowlers like Brett Lee and Dale Steyn. He often wondered what it felt like to bowl at such extreme speeds. Now that he is consistently crossing the 150 kph mark himself, he describes the experience as a major personal milestone. While he is proud of his individual pace, he insists his main focus remains helping his team win matches.

Sharma credited Gujarat Titans head coach Ashish Nehra for his rapid improvement. Nehra has taught him that speed is useless without control. The coach insists that every fast bowler must first master "Test-match lengths" before trying variations like yorkers or slower balls.

Vinay Rajkumar Turns Rugged Hero In Upcoming Film Maachis

Kannada actor Vinay Rajkumar's upcoming film with director BSP Varma has officially been titled Maachis. The makers announced the project on Vinay's birthday, creating excitement among fans eager to see the actor in a different role. The movie will be an action-revenge drama and marks the first collaboration between Vinay and BSP Varma.

The film is being produced by Suresh Gowda Hennur, while Shivugowda will work as the creative producer. Shooting for the project is expected to begin in July this year. Director BSP Varma, who earlier made the musical drama Murphy, is now moving into a completely different genre with Maachis. He has described the movie as a raw and emotional revenge story filled with intense action sequences.

Speaking about the film earlier, BSP Varma said he wanted to show a new side of Vinay Rajkumar that audiences have not seen before. He also praised the actor's recent performances and said Vinay was ready for a stronger and more powerful character.

Vinay Rajkumar is currently waiting for the release of Gramayana and is also acting in City Lights, directed by Duniya Vijay. The technical team of Maachis includes cinematographer Adarsh R, editor Kiran, and art director Guna. Famous stunt master Dr K Ravi Varma will handle the action scenes in the film. Though the story details are still being kept secret, the title Maachis hints at a fiery narrative. Fans are expecting the film to present Vinay Rajkumar in one of the intense and action-packed roles of his career.

Lockdown Pain and Pain

New talents have come together to prepared film called 'Lockdown'. Manju Mudgal has produced it under Abhinava Productions and has also played an important role. Javed Tippanahatty, who has worked with many directors, has composed the screenplay, lyrics, and music for the film and has given Direction. As the first step in the promotion, the trailer and the songs by Siri Music were released recently and the launch program was held at Sri Renukamba Studio in a grand manner.

Vijay Vignesh from Bangalore is the hero. Vanishree Srinivas, who hails from Davangere, is the heroine. Along with him, Sravani, Ashwinimudgal, Mamatha and the famous Reels Karnataka pair Govindaraju-Vaila have acted. Sharanappa Sugganahalli is the cinematographer and Shivaraj Mehu is the editor of the film.

The director then spoke, saying that the lockdown that shook the world brought pain to many but joy to some. Especially, some bitter incidents that happened in Bellary that day have been adapted into the script. In addition, the love of young lovers and middle-aged couples has been shown with humor. The scenes are real. But the story is fictional. The North Karnataka language has been used. Some things are unknown to people. To know that, you should watch our film, says Javed Tippanahatti.

I used to go to everyone for an acting opportunity. Due to their uncooperation, I thought why not do the film myself, but I stopped bringing it up to this point. There will be a love story in two tracks, and I have appeared in one. I have spent my earned money on the film. Manju Mudgal requested the media to cooperate.

The shooting was done in villages around Koppal and Uppina Betageri. As expected, Jayadeva Films has planned to release the film this month.

Kids are not Chikkavaru, Konaru

'Chikkavaru Konaralla' film, Prakash Chinnappa produced film along with the story, screenplay, and direction under the banner of HUE Arts Studios. Nethrababu-Swetha-Jameela-Naziya.R.Khazi-Sathish have joined hands in the production. A special screening and trailer launch ceremony for the media was held at Sri Renukamba Studio recently.

The main roles are played by childrens called Sehari, Tishya, Hansika, Srivas, Viyan, Srigowri, and Srivas. The rest of the senior artists Ramesh Bhatt, SundarRaj and Anita Bhatt have added value to the film.

Speaking on the occasion, the director said that a lot of changes occur in children between the ages of five and eleven. Children of that age are very intelligent, and their thoughts, manners, policies and ideas are innovative. How will the world change after twenty years? When global warming occurs, how will children dare to save their place? In the meantime, how do senior citizens resolve old differences with love and mutual understanding between their siblings. Prakash Chinnappa revealed that the film shows how six children respect their elders and uphold the balance of knowledge and culture by bringing about change, with meaningful situations.

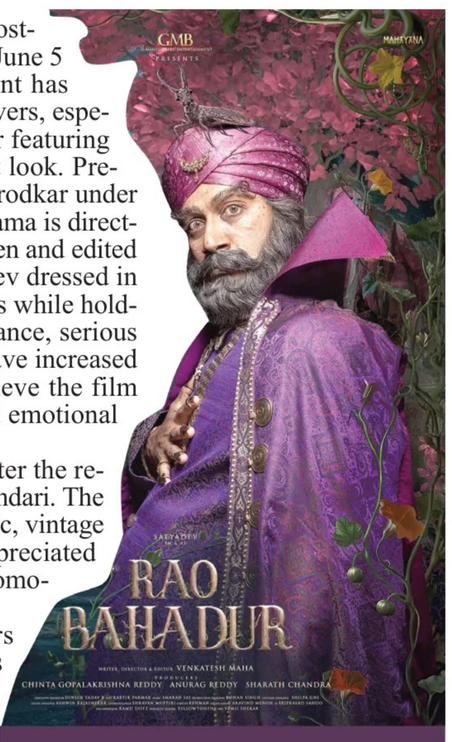
Ramesh Bhatt, Sundarraj and Anita Bhatt shared their experiences of shooting and expressed their happiness at being children with children. Uttam Kumar has composed music for two songs written by Prasanna-Chandrashekar Bhat. Cinematography and editing are by Rishikesh, background sound is by Vivaan Surya. The shooting was done around Sagar and Hosabale. The team has made plans to release the film, which has been praised by the censors.

The makers of Rao Bahadur have postponed the release of the film from June 5 to July 3, 2026. The announcement has created fresh excitement among movie lovers, especially after the team released a new poster featuring actor Satya Dev in a completely different look. Presented by Mahesh Babu and Namrata Shirodkar under GMB Entertainment, the psychological drama is directed by Venkatesh Maha, who has also written and edited the film. The latest poster shows Satya Dev dressed in royal-purple clothing decorated with pearls while holding an elegant hand fan. His aged appearance, serious expression, and luxurious surroundings have increased curiosity about the story. Many fans believe the film will explore secrets, power struggles, and emotional conflicts inside an aristocratic family.

The film already created strong buzz after the release of its first glimpse and the song O Sundari. The song became popular for its nostalgic music, vintage visuals, and emotional mood. Viewers appreciated the old-world atmosphere shown in the promotional material.

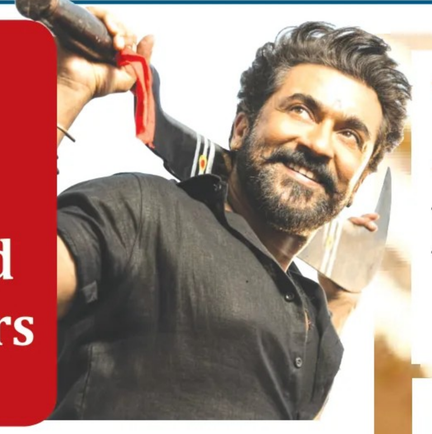
Along with Satya Dev, the movie stars Deepa Thomas as the female lead. Actors Vikas Muppala, Bala Parasar, Anand Bharathi, Pranay Vaka, and Master Kiran also play important roles. Cinematographer Kartik Parmar, music composer Smaran Sai, and production designer Rohan Singh are part of the technical team.

With Venkatesh Maha's unique storytelling style and Satya Dev's intense performance, Rao Bahadur is becoming one of the most awaited Telugu films of the year. The makers hope the delayed release will help the film reach audiences across theatres nationwide successfully.



Satya Dev's Rao Bahadur Release Shifted Amid Rising Curiosity

RJ Balaji Confirms Karuppu Release Amid Delay Rumours Strongly



Director and actor RJ Balaji has dismissed rumours about the delay of Karuppu starring Suriya. He confirmed that the film will release in theatres as planned on May 14. The movie has already received its censor certificate, while fans are eagerly waiting for the official trailer launch.

RJ Balaji recently shared a video message on social media explaining why the trailer has not yet been released. He said the trailer is completely ready, but the team wants to release it at the right moment so it reaches audiences properly. According to him, the current political climate and election-related discussions could reduce attention towards the trailer if it is launched immediately.

He assured fans that the trailer would match their expectations and said the makers are waiting for a clear and suitable time for promotion. His emotional statement about Karuppan protecting everyone quickly became popular online among fans.

Earlier, RJ Balaji also explained why the film's production took longer than expected. He revealed that the movie was originally planned for a Diwali release, but delays during filming forced the team to postpone it.

KRITI SANON
Dreams Of Playing REKHA In Inspiring Biopic

Actor Kriti Sanon has revealed that her dream role would be playing legendary actress Rekha in a biopic. In a recent interview, Kriti praised Rekha and described her as the ultimate baddie, saying she deeply admires her personality, confidence, and inspiring life journey.

Speaking to GQ India, Kriti said Rekha's strong aura, intelligence, warmth, and fearless approach to life make her an ideal person to portray on screen. Although Kriti admitted that she does not resemble Rekha physically, she said she would still love the opportunity to bring the veteran actress's story to audiences through cinema.

During the interview, Kriti also spoke openly about the struggles she faced after entering the film industry without any film background. She shared that there were times when important roles slipped away and were eventually given to star kids. The actress explained that the uncertainty made her journey difficult, but it also helped her grow stronger and more focused.

Kriti said her career began changing after the success of Mimi, which gave her meaningful recognition as a performer. She added that failures taught her valuable lessons and helped her understand the kind of work she truly wanted to pursue in cinema.

On the professional front, Kriti Sanon is preparing for the release of Cocktail 2. The movie also stars Shahid Kapoor and Rashmika Mandanna and is scheduled to release in theatres on June 19 this year across India.

Vijay Deverakonda's Rowdy Janardhan Poster Creates Birthday Excitement Online

Tollywood actor Vijay Deverakonda celebrated his 37th birthday with the release of a powerful new poster from his upcoming film Rowdy Janardhan. The makers unveiled the striking look on social media, instantly creating excitement among fans across the country.

The poster shows Vijay sitting confidently in heavy rain with a revolver in his hand. He appears in a rugged avatar with a moustache, sharp expression, and maroon outfit. The intense visual hints at a strong action-packed role filled with emotion and violence. One of the most talked-about details in the poster is a woman's foot placed on Vijay's chest, directly over his heart, suggesting an emotional connection in the story.

Fans believe the foot belongs to actress Keerthy Suresh, who plays the female lead in the film.

Keerthy Suresh Battles Mysskin In Intense Courtroom Drama Film

Actor Keerthy Suresh is set to appear in the legal thriller Sathyavan Savithiri, where she plays a junior advocate fighting for justice against her senior lawyer, played by Mysskin. Directed by Praveen S Vijaay, the film promises an emotional courtroom battle mixed with commercial entertainment.

According to the director, the story focuses on the difference between law and justice. Keerthy's character Savithiri becomes deeply involved in her husband's legal case and chooses to fight for justice, while her senior believes only in following the law. These differences eventually lead them into a courtroom clash. Actor Charukesh, known for the series Heart Beat, plays Keerthy's husband in the film.

Praveen revealed that he asked both Keerthy and Mysskin to behave naturally rather than create dramatic characters. He wanted their performances to feel realistic and close to their real personalities.

The director also credited actress Aishwarya Rajesh for helping the project move forward. He shared that she encouraged him to narrate the story to Keerthy after he had been trying for nearly six years to reach the actress.

Praveen said his earlier experience as co-director and dialogue writer for Gargi helped him design the courtroom scenes. He attended real court sessions for around 20 days to understand legal proceedings better.

The director originally wanted to title the film Savithiri, but changed it to avoid confusion with Keerthy's earlier role in Nadigaiyar Thilagam.

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